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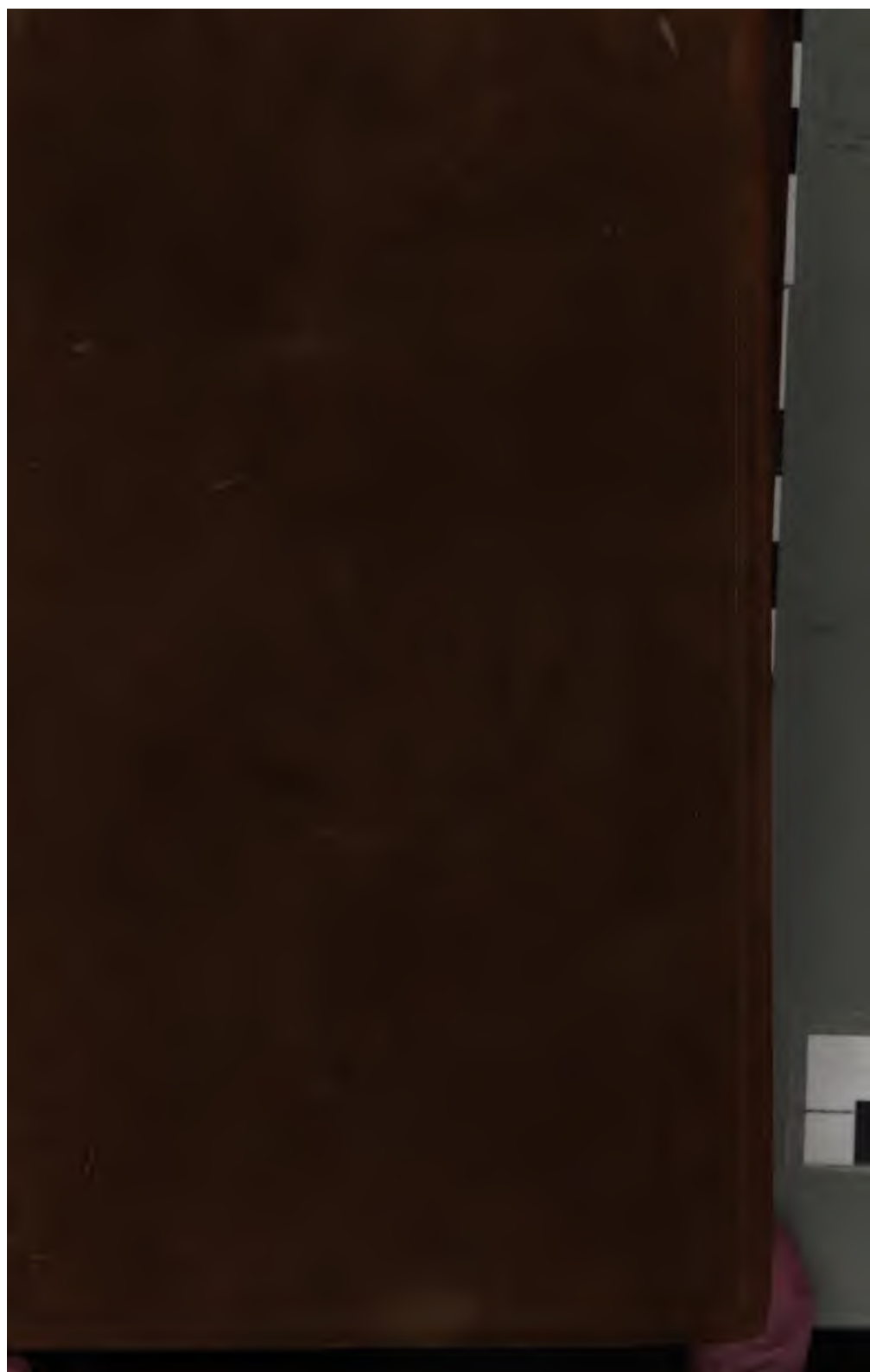
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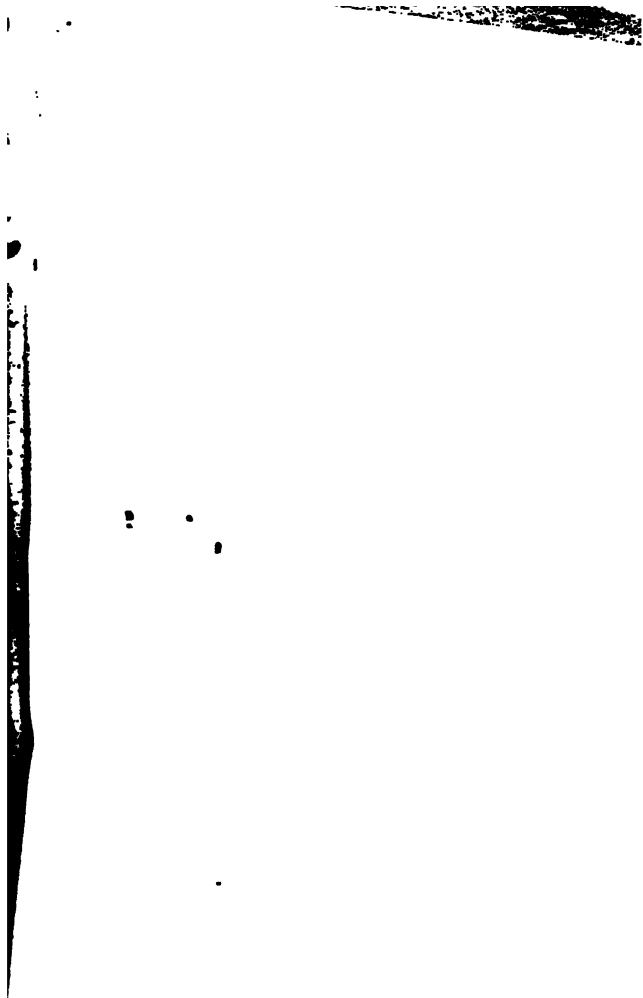
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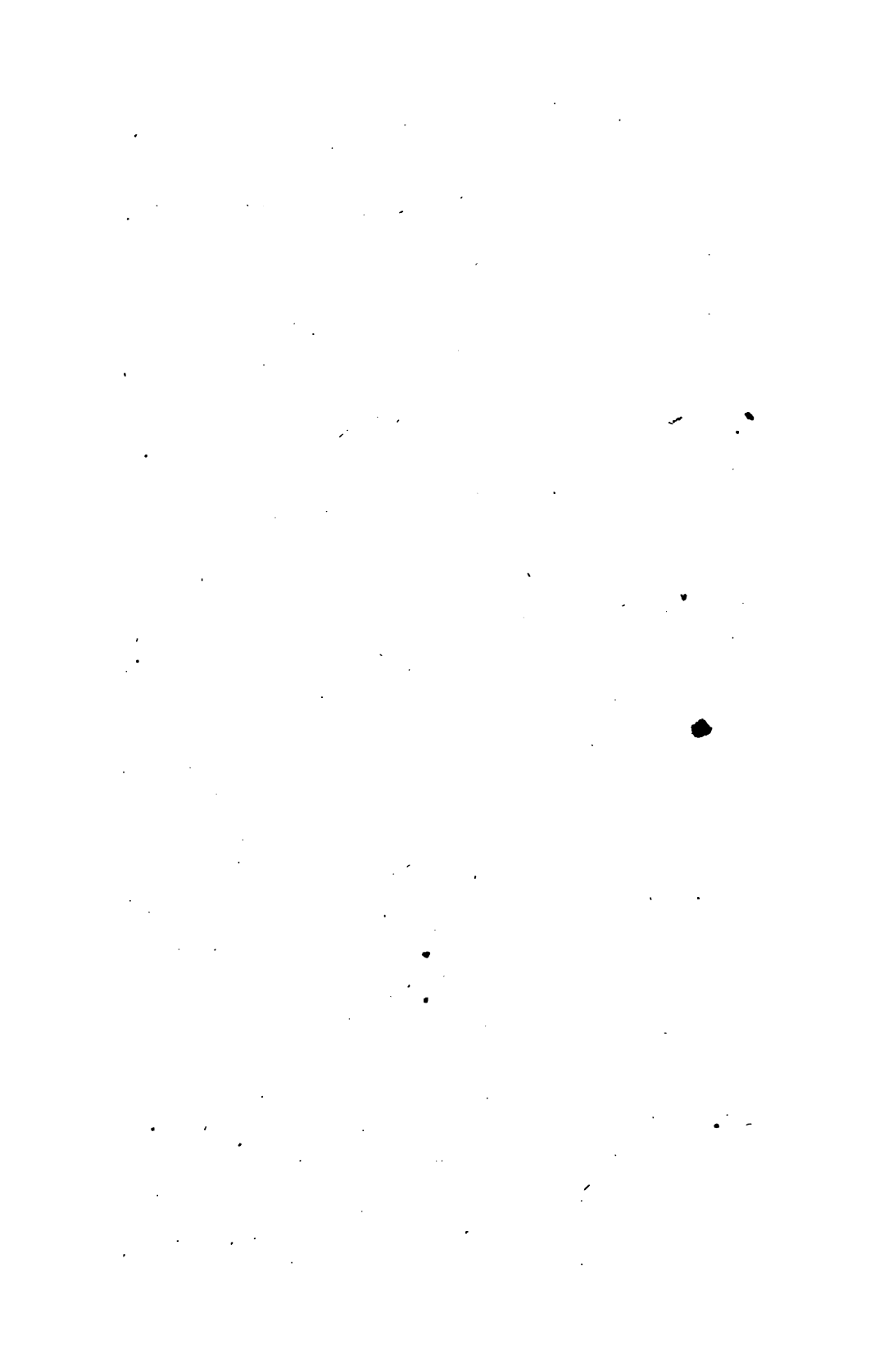




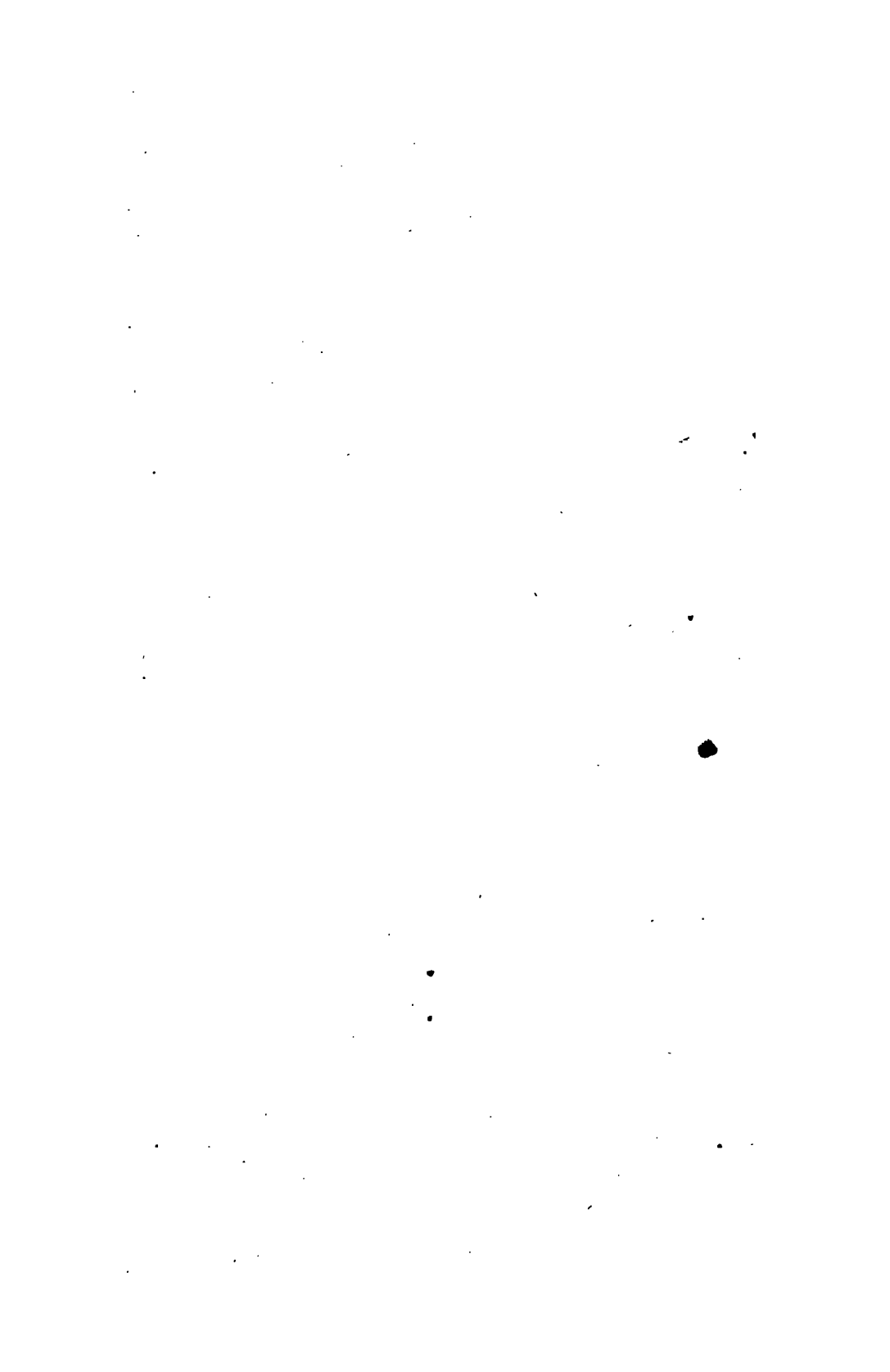


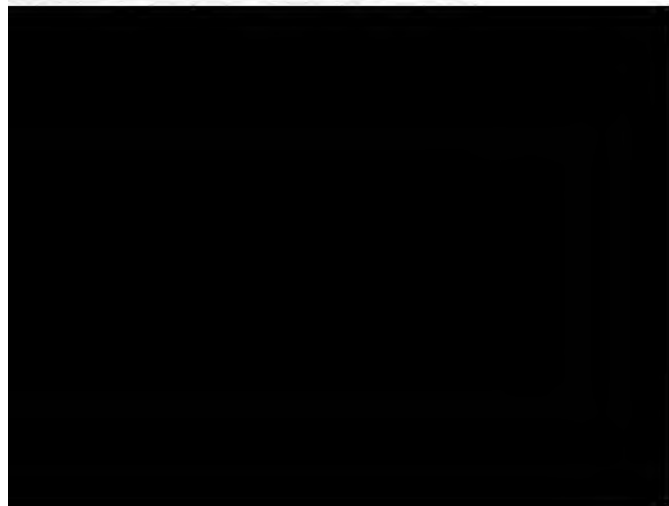
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£10.





A Collection of LAWS

WHICH

Form the CONSTITUTION of the
Bedford LEVEL CORPORATION;

TOGETHER WITH

An INTRODUCTORY HISTORY thereof.

By *CHARLES NALSON COLE*, Esq;
of the *Inner Temple*, Barrister at Law, and Register to
the CORPORATION.

—— *Bedford Level*, erst

A dreary Pathless waste ———

Till one of that high honour'd Patriot Name
RUSSEL arose, who drain'd the Rushy Fen,
Confin'd the Waters, bid Groves and Gardens bloom,
And through his new Creation led the *Ouze*
And gentle *Camus*, silver winding Streams,
Godlike Beneficence! from *Chaos* drear,
To raise the Garden and the shady Grove.

DYER'S FLEECE,

L O N D O N:

Printed by H. WOODFALL and W. STRAHAN, Law-Printers to
the King's Most Excellent Majesty, for C. BATHURST, at
the *Cross Keys*, opposite St. *Dunstan's* Church, *Fleetstreet*.

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TO THE MOST NOBLE
JOHN DUKE OF BEDFORD;
MARQUIS OF TAVISTOCK, &c.

LORD PRIVY SEAL,

Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter,

AND

Governor of the *Bedford* LEVEL CORPORATION;

This Body of LAWS

(Now First collected together)

Form'd for the Advancement of an Undertaking;

The Object of which,

Was public Utility, and the Happiness of Individuals:

Begun by *FRANCIS* Earl of *Bedford*,

And ever since,

Benevolently patronized and protected,

By his illustrious Descendants;

IS WITH ALL HUMILITY

INSCRIBED,

BY HIS GRACE'S MOST OBLIGED,

MOST DEVOTED,

AND

MOST HUMBLE SERVANT,

CHARLES NALSON COLE.



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A N
Historical ACCOUNT
OF THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
Bedford Level Corporation.

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A N
Historical ACCOUNT
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CONSTITUTION
OF THE
Bedford Level Corporation.

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AN
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
Federal Level Corporation.

A N

Historical ACCOUNT, &c.

THE following Sheets, containing all the public Acts and Instruments which make up the whole Constitution of the *Bedford Level* Corporation, have at their Desire been collected together and printed under the Inspection of their Register; a Work he readily engaged in, as it seemed to him of the utmost Consequence, that those who had the Government and Direction of an Undertaking, in which the Interests of the Public as well as Individuals were so highly concerned, should have a Collection of those Laws in one Body by which they are to govern and direct. That Body consisting of a Variety of Laws and Adjudications of Sewers, public Agreements, Charters of Incorporation, Returns to Commissions and Acts of Parliament; the latter of which being to be met with only in the Statutes at large, and those too in different Parts of so voluminous a Work; of the former some having been ne-

ver printed, and others long out of Print ; these
 Circumstances taken together have made a Col-
 lection of this sort extremely necessary, as with-
 out it more labour and Pains would be requisite
 for the Understanding the Constitution, than
 can be expected from Gentlemen who volun-
 tarily employ themselves on the sole Motives
 of public Spirit and Benevolence. — A large
 Plain or Level consisting of near 400,000
 Acres, all which, except some few small Hills,
 was cover'd with Water, was an Object which
 from the insular Situation of *Great Britain*, its
 Nature and Government, could not but at some
 time or other engage the Attention of the Pub-
 lic, and the particular Care of Individuals.
 As an Island, Commerce could not but be wove
 up with the first Principles of its Policy ; its
 Nature and Government could not but carry
 that Commerce to the Heights it has since gone,
 and this amongst many other Effects would pro-
 duce Populoufness ; Populoufness as it were out
 of Gratitude to its Parent Commerce would

licy already mentioned, there was another which might operate very strongly in obtaining the Favour of the Public and exciting the Spirit of private Men to engage in the Work of draining this great Level.—The Monkish Historians and the Registers of Abbies, represented it as formerly in a very different Situation from what it was at the Time they recorded its History; particularly *William of Malmſbury*, who wrote in the Eleventh Century, and who in the Opinion of able Judges is an * authentic Historian, describes *Thorney* and the County around it as a Representation of the first Paradise. † From whence arose so fatal a Reverse, whether from some great Convulsion of an Earthquake, or whether from the ordinary Course and Progress of Nature, can by no

* J. Leland Aſſert. Arthur F. 468. a. D. Hen. Saville in Epist. ded. ad 5 Script. Usher in Epist. ded. ad Ecclef. Hiſtinam.

† In ejus (Heliensis dico) Episcopi parochia, est Thorneiæ cœnobium. Thorneia ulterior scripto, et contractior spacio, sed prior laudum Titulo, Paradisi simulacrum, quod amœnitate jam cœlos ipsos imaginetur, in ipsis paludibus arborum ferax, quæ enodi proceritate luctantur ad sydera. Equorea planities herbarum viridantibus comis oculos advocat, currentibus per campum nullus offensionis datur locus. Nulla ibi vel exigua terræ portio vacat, hic in pomiferas arbores terra se subjicit. Hic prætexitur ager vineis, quæ vel per terram repunt, vel per bajulos palos in cœsum surgunt. Multum certamen naturæ et cultus, ut quod obliviscitur illa producat iste. Quid dicetur de ædificiorum decore, quæ solum mirabile quantum inter illas paludes solidum inconcussis fundamentis sustinet?

Will. Malm. De Gestis Pontif. Ang. Lib. 41. Fol. 168. b.

Means be determined; nor have those who have made this Subject their Enquiry, left any thing satisfactory whereby to determine it; but certain it is that these Accounts of what the Level had been were amongst others an Inducement, to engage Men in the Undertaking to recover and drain it. * *Hondius*, who published *Mercatour's* Geography, mentions Attempts that were made so early as by *John of Gaunt*, and afterward by *Margaret* Countess of *Richmond*, to recover this Level; but of the History of these no Traces or Memorial is left. The Reign of Queen *Elizabeth* may be properly fixed on as the Period in which the Great Level began to be immediately a public Care. The Strength of Commerce at that time, which, though she was far from being grown up, enabled her to comprehend her own Interests; the great Numbers of ingenious and industrious Foreigners, who flying from the *Low Countries* to avoid the Persecutions of the Duke *D'Alva*, settled themselves in *England* were kindly received

gether conspired to make this an Age of Discovery and Improvement. The Queen exactly understood the great Consequence so large a Tract of Land, if it could be recovered; was of, rich in its Nature, and whose Produce from its Situation might be easily made subservient to all the Purposes of Commerce. The difficulty of recovering it seem'd by no Means unsurmountable; the intimate connection at that Time between *Holland* and *England*, made all Men easily believe from what many of them had seen, that if Expence and Industry had taken from the Sea, a Seat whereon that great Republic was built, an Expence and Industry not so great would be sufficient to recover from the Sea what they had some reason to think it might have possibly usurp'd.—Therefore in the 20th of Queen *Elizabeth*, a Commission was granted to Sir *Thomas Cecil*, Sir *William Fitzwilliams* and others, the Object of which was the Draining the Fens about *Clows Cross*; a Return was made to this Commission, but there is no account of any Part of that Plan being carry'd into Execution; the disease affecting the whole Body which was very large, and this being a Remedy calculated to cure only a Part of it, met with the same Success that the like kind of Application doth in the Human Constitution; it might amuse for a Time, but it was impossible it should produce any real Effect, as to the End it was design'd for:—Those were Times of Sagacity, Men did

not make one Blunder the Foundation whereon
to build another, a Mistake set them right—
no more Commissions of this Kind issued du-
ring this Queen's Reign. An Act of Parliament
passed in the 43d Year of Queen *Elizabeth*, on
a general Plan for draining the whole Great
Level; and indeed it was so general that it
comprehended all the Marshes and drowned
Lands in *England*;—the Means by which it
was to be effected seemed equal to the End,
and great Expectations were conceiv'd of its
Consequences by those who interest'd them-
selves most in the Design;—but all these Hopes
were destroyed by a melancholy Event which
happened very soon after; the Letter of the
Law was left, but that Spirit which was to put
it into Execution died with the Queen; her
Successor, whose Ideas of his own Abilities
induced him to believe that he understood all
Kind of Learning Human and Divine, all Kind
of Business from that which was transacted in
the Cabinet, down to that which is carried on

Recovery thereof, cannot but convince the most impartial Examiner; that however transcendant the King's Abilities might be as a Politician, a Scholar, and a Divine, they were by no Means calculated for, or equal to a Work of this Kind. A Multiplicity of Commissions issued; a Variety of Disputes arose between the Commissioners and the Country; Orders were sent from the Privy Council for carrying on particular Works. Letters were wrote by the King himself to the Undertakers, expensive Views were taken of the Country, a general Dissatisfaction arose in all Parties concerned, much was attempted and little executed; these were the Effects of his Royal Favour and Protection.—Dissatisfied at last with those he had employed, and to make Amends for the long and continual Disappointments all Parties concerned had met with, he most graciously condescended himself to be the Undertaker of this great Work;—the Recompence was settled, the Terms were agreed on between his Majesty and the Proprietors; that Agreement was carried into a Law, and this Royal Adventurer was on the Eve of beginning his Undertaking. What would have been the Consequences of this Adventure, it cannot be difficult to determine, but they must be left to Conjecture; no one executive Step having been ever taken; for such is the strange reverse of human Affairs, that at the Time the King was meditating

dictating how to obtain a new Country, as it were, for his Subjects, he was called off from that Design to recover an old one for his own Family, out of which they had been expelled. —The ill timed Ambition, and strange Politics of *Frederick* Elector Palatine, who married the Princess *Elizabeth*, Daughter to King *James*, induced him to accept of the Crown of *Bobemia*; for the wearing of which one Year he afterwards paid as a Price his Electoral Dominions, out of which he was driven in Revenge by the Emperor;—he applied to his Father in Law; his Attempts in Consequence of that Application to recover the Palatinate for him; and other political Embarrassments which attended him during the rest of his Reign intirely extinguished his Spirit as an Adventurer:—From this Time nothing seems attempted with any Effect for the Relief of this Country, till the sixth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the first; at a Sessions of Sewers held that Year at *Lynne*, Sir *Cornelius Vermuy-*

were greatly averſe to it, not from the Terms of the Agreement, but from their Objections to the Perſon contracted with; they conſidered Sir *Cornelius* as he was, a Foreigner, and therefore whatever his Character, whatever his Abilities were, this was a ſufficient Objection; they would ſubmit to no Engagements that were made with him. National Prejudices are not to be defended on general and great Rules of Policy; all that can be ſaid is, that theſe were the Prejudices of *Engliſhmen*,—but with all their Prejudices about them, theſe very Men after having rejected this Foreigner ſhew'd the greateſt Sagacity, in the Perſon whom they fixed on to be their Protector and deliverer.—*Francis* Earl of *Bedford* was at that Time Owner of a large Quantity of this great Level; he was a Nobleman of high Birth, great Rank, and theſe were ſupported by the moſt ample Fortunes,—he was of an Underſtanding clear and penetrating, uſed to and ready in Buſineſs;—of a firmneſs of Mind not to be oppreſſed; an unſhaken Integrity, of which all Men had the higheſt Opinion, and animated by a Principle of public Spirit, which made theſe great and amiable Qualities active in all Matters that tended to the public Good;—to him in the Language of the *Lynn* Law, “ They became humble Sui-
“ tors to undertake ſo great and ſo noble a
“ Work, ſo much concerning the whole
“ Country:

“ Country:—A Motion proceeding so freely
 “ from the Country, and seconded by all the
 “ Commissioners present,” could not but have
 the Effect it had on a Heart warmed with a
 Desire of doing Good ; ” his Lordship yielded
 “ and did agree to undertake the said Work.”

—In consequence of this, on the 13th of *January*
 in the sixth Year of King *Charles* the First, at
 a Commission of Sewers holden at *Lynne* in
Norfolk, was made a Law, which for its Ex-
 cellence hath ever since been called The *Lynn*
 Law : • This recites the Agreement made be-
 tween the Earl of *Bedford* and the Proprietors,
 which is ratified and confirmed by the Power
 and Jurisdiction of Sewers, and is in some sort
 the Foundation of all the Laws relative to the
Bedford Level Corporation :—By this Law the
 Earl was to have 95,000 Acres of the drained
 Lands for his Satisfaction on account of the
 Expence and Hazard such a Work carried
 with it ; of which 95,000 Acres 40,000 were
 to be appropriated for continuing and preserv-

their Assistance; and the next Year thirteen Gentlemen of high Rank, Property and Interest in that Country, offered themselves to become Adventurers with him;—the Earl accepted their Offers, and the Terms of their Agreement are contained in a Deed which is called The Indenture of Fourteen Parts;—the Work was instantly begun; Unanimity, Spirit, and Judgment, made up the Characters of the Adventurers; the Success was equal to what such Characters promised; the Royal Favour shone upon this chosen Band, who were enterprizing at their own Expence, for the Happiness of Thousands:—In the tenth Year of his Reign, King *Charles* the First granted the Earl and his Adventurers a Charter of Incorporation,^b with Privileges which it well became the Crown to grant, because they were granted to those who deserved them. In that Charter are contained Provisions for the Religious and Civil Liberties of those who were to be the Inhabitants of this new Country, and the Earl of *Bedford* is appointed to its Government;—the Charter according to the Usage of those Times is in the *Latin* Tongue;—it is so interesting in its Nature, that for the Sake of those who are not well acquainted with that Language;—the Editor hath accompanied it with an *English* Translation,^c in which he hath endeavoured to preserve the Sense and Spirit of the Grant, as far as it could be done from the Original, which

• Vide F. 23. ^b Vide 37. ^c Vide 65.

which is not a Composition remarkable for its Elegance or Propriety of Stile. Warmed by this Beam of Royal Sunshine, the Earl and his Adventurers proceeded with so much Vigour and Spirit, that notwithstanding the great Expence and Hazard that attended the Undertaking, the Work was finished in the thirteenth Year of King *Charles* the First. At a Sessions of Sewers held the twelfth of *October* that Year at *St. Ives* in the County of *Huntingdon*, the Commissioners decreed the great Level drained according to the Intent of the *Lynn* Law, and the 95,000 Acres to be set out as a Recompence for the Earl;—his Majesty's Surveyor General assisted in the Work;—the Lands were set out, a Schedule of the Particulars whereof was framed by the Commissioners, and returned into the Court of Chancery; and nothing was left to be done, but the putting the Earl and his Adventurers into Possession of what they had so dearly earned.—*That Law of Sewers makes a material Part of the present

characteristic of King *Charles* the First; whether from a Dislike to the Earl of *Bedford* who was an utter Enemy to the dangerous Politics of those Times, and was of great Weight with all those who opposed the Pace the King was making towards an Establishment of absolute Government; or whether it was owing to the pressing Exigencies of his Majesty's private Finances, which his unpopular Treasurer, the Bishop of *London*, might think the Measure his Majesty afterwards took might relieve, at this Distance of Time cannot be determined; but certain it is, that very soon afterwards the Disposition of the King towards the Earl and his Adventurers was intirely changed; that King who by his Charter dated the 13th of *March* 1635, expressed his highest Approbation of their Proceedings, and granted them all the Privileges which were necessary for carrying on their Undertaking, in less than four Years, by such Means as ill became a King, persecuted those very Men he had before so kindly protected, to the almost intire Ruin of the Undertaking, and the Destruction of the private Fortunes of most of those who had with so much public Spirit engaged in this Risque; a Commission of Sewers was directed to Officers and Servants of the Crown, and those whom the Court had obliged; who intirely unacquainted with the Business, and as little interested in the Event of it as Strangers could
be

be, were to examine into the Proceedings of the Earl and his Adventurers.—They met at *Huntingdon* on the 12th of *April* 1639;—if on so serious a Subject, Gravity did not peculiarly belong to the Manner of treating it, one might be indulged a Smile at the Idea of the first Interview of these Court Judges; those who had figur'd together in a Drawing Room as the Embroidery of a Court, now met together for the first Time in an Alehouse in the Country, as the Tools to be employed in committing an Act of the highest Oppression and Injustice;—they were well instructed in their Business before they set out, which was to traverse the whole of what the *St. Ives* Law had done not above six Months before.—Those Commissioners who met at *St. Ives*, understanding in the Business, unbiassed in their Opinions, determined the Work compleat, and adjudged the Earl of *Bedford* and his Adventurers, entitled to the Recompence they adventured for:—These Court Commissioners ignorant of the

that those by whom they were employed entertained of them; that on the 9th of *April*, two Days before they met, a Letter bearing Date on that Day was wrote to them by the High Treasurer the Bishop of *London*, to confirm them in the good Purposes they set out on;—and for fear this should not have its desired Effect, on the 13th which was the Day after they met, the King himself condescended to write to them, and the Royal Signet was prostituted to the Purposes of Oppression and Injustice. It seems by those Letters the King had been much enlightened within the compass of three Days, and he knew that to be a Fact before Examination, which these Commissioners were to make a Fact after they had examined. In those Letters the King declares that, since the Lord Treasurer had sent his Dispatches, he was perfectly well satisfied that the Earl of *Bedford* had not drained the Country, and offers himself to be the Undertaker of the Work. If the Lord Treasurer's Letters warmed the Commissioners in the Purposes they had, they glowed at this strange but Royal Mandate of his Majesty;—they set themselves to work with the greatest Zeal and Ardour, not by Halves, they went roundly through the whole Business.—They began, in Opposition to the *St. Ives* Law, to arraign the Earl of *Bedford's* Conduct; they determined that the Work was incompleat and defective,

b

they

they adjudged the Earl and his Adventurers not to have performed their Contract, and therefore not entitled to their recompence in the Manner it had been contracted for; and with scandalous Adulations, extolling his Majesty's great Goodness in offering to undertake the Work, they most meanly accepted his Proposals with a free will Offering of 57000 Acres more for his princely Care of this distressed Country;— to distress the Earl and his Adventurers they imposed an Arbitrary Tax of 30s. an Acre on the 95,000 Acres amounting in the whole to 142,500*l.* well knowing that, however able the Earl of *Bedford* might be to advance his Share of that Sum, the Circumstances of the rest of the Adventurers, many of whom had been ruined by the Expences already incurred, were by no Means equal to the discharging of such a Tax; and that if they had been so, it could not on any Principle of Calculation have been deemed prudent to advance it on these Terms. They declared his Majesty the Undertaker of the

Attention to any Business where the Happiness of Individuals was the immediate Object, when he could employ himself in attempting to procure and establish the Prosperity of a whole Kingdom. And such was his Object whilst the Business of this Court Commission was carried on. King *Charles* had, ever since his coming to the Throne, taken all Opportunities of shewing that his Ideas of Government were very unlike those of his Subjects, who well knowing the first Principles of the Constitution saw what Government should and ought to be.—He had treated Parliaments, as only Ministers of his Power, had called them to dissolve them, when they took on themselves to exercise any of those Powers which the wise Policy of this Constitution hath arm'd them with, and ventured himself even to levy Money without their Concurrence or Interposition. All these Causes and several others well known in History, had been long working to light up that general Flame which afterwards broke out.—The Earl of *Bedford* stood foremost on all Occasions to contend for that true political Liberty which it is the Privilege of this Constitution alone to enjoy:—A Friend to the Prerogative of the Crown, as it was a Part of the Constitution, he constantly opposed all Excesses which arose from carrying it beyond its Bounds, as Encroachments dangerous to the Liberties of the Subject, and at the same Time destructive

of that Prerogative itself. It was on him that on all great Occasions, the Eyes of good Men were turned. The Business of this Court Commission was transacting at a Time, when the Fire was first lighted up in *Scotland*; there a Rebellion was actually begun and the Country was in Arms:—The fatal Consequences of this no one could pronounce, but they were such as could not but be foreseen to be of the highest Import to the Nation. From this Time to his Death, the Earl was wholly employed in a constant and watchful Attention to whatever might concern the Happiness of these Kingdoms, and this Undertaking engaged no Part of his Care;—he died of the Small Pox on the 9th of *May* 1641, and as *Cicero* saith of *Hortensius*, “*Cessit e vita, suo magis, quam suorum*”
 “*civium tempore, et tum occidit, cum lugere faci-*”
 “*lius Rempublicam posset, si viveret, quam juvare;*”
 “*vixitq; tamdiu, quam licuit in civitate bene, be-*”
 “*ateque, vivere.*”^a The golden Dreams of his Majesty and his High Treasurer, of the Resources

he lost his Kingdoms, and with them his Life. Amidst these great and weighty Concerns the Undertaking he had been so earnest to engage in, seems to have been totally forgot. The Works that the Earl of *Bedford* and his Adventurers had made, at so great an Expence, went to decay, their Drains were growing up, and the whole was running into as distressful a Condition as it was before they undertook it. *Francis* Earl of *Bedford* was succeeded by his Eldest Son *William*;—the Part he acted in the High Concerns of those Times was such as might be expected from the Son of so noble and great a Father. As long as those who opposed the Crown, professed that Opposition, and seemed to carry it on, upon true constitutional Principles, and merely to preserve the just Ballance of the several Orders of Government, he was most Zealous and active in concurring with them;—he risked his Life and his Fortune in the Service;—but when he found that they meant more than he did, and that which he had the greatest Hatred to, a Subversion of all Government,—he instantly quitted the Parliament's Service, and went to the King; there too he was disappointed; For finding that wise and moderate Councils were not the Growth of the Court, and that the Meaning of those who had the chief Influence there was not what it should be, after having been persecuted by the Parliament even to the

Loss of his Liberty and the Sequestration of his Estate, and that Persecution taken off without any Application from himself, for he nobly disdained to give that Countenance to their Usurpation which would have arose from any Treaty with them, he retired to his own Estate, — ever watchful and ready to come out if any Opportunity offered of promoting the Essential Establishment of these Kingdoms. A more amiable Picture cannot be conceived than this Great Man in his Retirement, where Providence seems to have laid him up as in a Harbour of Safety, and to have preserved his Life to be an Instrument in bringing about those great Events which afterwards happened, and which were the greatest Blessings this Country ever enjoyed; for such must the Restoration and the Revolution ever be looked upon, and in both which he had a considerable Share. — In this Retirement excluded by the said Circumstances of the Times from all Opportunity of advancing the present Interests and Prospe-

ral Parties interested in the Country, applied to the Assembly at *Westminster*, which was then called the Parliament, for their Sanction.—That Assembly examined all former Proceedings, they declared null and void the extraordinary Proceedings of the Court Commissioners at *Huntingdon*, and placed the whole Management of the Level, under the Direction of the Earl of *Bedford*, on the general Plan of the *Lynn Law*,—that Earl of *Bedford*, who when his own Liberty and Fortune was at Stake, disdained making any Application to this unconstitutional Assembly, yet when the Happiness of thousands, who were distressed, presented itself to him as an Object, condescended for their Sakes to Act under their Authority,—a rare Instance, and which could only flow from the most benevolent Heart. This Act is called the pretended Act of Parliament, and passed in the Year 1649. * From this Time the Undertaking proceeded with wonderful Success;—the Earl and his Adventurers repaired the decayed Works, made new ones, and that Country hath been ever since making a regular Progress towards the Perfection it is arrived at in its present happy State,—Soon after the Restoration, and when such general Business of the State necessary on such an Event had been gone through, the Earl of

Bedford set about a Business which he had much at Heart, as it was of the utmost Consequence to the whole Great Level of the Fens. This was the obtaining an Act of Parliament to ratify and confirm what had been done in consequence of the *Lynn Law* and the pretended Act of Parliament; to make the Adventurers a Corporation, and form such a System of Laws for the Government thereof, as might be best calculated to promote all the Ends intended by such an Establishment.—A Bill for this Purpose was brought into Parliament in the 15th Year of King *Charles* the Second, and after as much Consideration as ever was given to any Bill brought into Parliament, was that Year passed into a Law.*—Those who read that Act, knowing the Principles on which it was founded, and the Ends proposed to be attained by it, cannot but admire it as one of the most perfect Instances of the Wisdom and Abilities of the Legislature, that the extensive Statute Laws of this Country can furnish;—and this

a Law is Certainty, from the Consequences already mentioned this hath a fair Right to claim that Priority amongst the Laws of this Country which the Editor hath given it.—In that Act of Parliament the Adventurers are made a Corporation to have Succession for ever; the Manner of their Continuance is prescribed, their Powers are declared, the whole 95,000 Acres, which was the Recompence for the Work of draining, are made subject to Taxes to be annually laid and raised, for the Support and Maintenance of the Works of the Level. The publick Meetings of the Corporation are fixed, and the Business of those Meetings directed: To recite it, is to set forth its Excellence, but as it is printed in this Collection, that would be an unnecessary Repetition*. Thus the Editor hath trac'd this Undertaking from its Infant State through the several Stages of its Progress, till it arrived to Maturity, under the Act of the 15th of King *Charles* the Second; which he hath endeavoured to do with the utmost Conciseness and Impartiality, and in which is contained the Political History of the Institution of the several Laws that were made on this Account to that Period. The Act of the 15th of *Car.* 2. with all its Excellencies, was not without its Imperfections; all human Laws have them, and those only are the best

which have fewest; but it must be said that these Imperfections were such as could not be foreseen, for they were to be discovered by Experience only. The 15th of King *Charles* the Second, had given the Corporation a general Power of Taxing, but not prescribed the Form or Manner in which that Power was to be executed.—Under that Act, the Taxes were laid by Way of an Acre Tax, so that the same specific Tax was laid for every Acre; this was found to be a Tax of great Inequality; for as those Lands differed much in Value, whilst the Produce of the best enabled those who own'd them to pay the Taxes imposed on them, the worst were taxed at almost as much as they were intrinsically worth. This was soon discovered, and the Tax was altered to a gradual Acre Tax of five different Sorts, and the Lands taxed in Proportion to their Value; but this Remedy was not adequate to the Evil complained of; for the different Value of the Lands was not ascertained, and five Sorts were

procure an Equality of Taxes;—their Application was kindly received, and the Legislature gave them all the Assistance they wanted; Commissioners were appointed from amongst Gentlemen of known Abilities and Integrity in the Country, to survey the Adventurers Land, to sort, divide, and rate it;—they proceeded in the Work with Unanimity and Dispatch; they surveyed, sorted it into eleven Degrees, made their Return;—the Adventurers acquiesced in it; and according to that Survey ^a, which, together with the Act of the 20th of King *Charles* the Second, ^b appointing the Commissioners, is contained in the following Collection, the Adventurers Lands have been taxed ever since. To the Honour of those Commissioners it should be remembered, that their Sagacity and Impartiality shewn in the Execution of this Trust was such, that it hath been confirmed by the Judgments and Opinions of all Men who have had any Concerns in this Country ever since; and there is not in general at present any surer Way of determining the intrinsic Value of the Lands in the *Bedford* Level, than by an Application to that Survey, where their proportional Values are almost exactly ascertained. The Act of the 15th of King *Charles* the Second, had given Lords of Manors and Commoners a Power to inclose and divide their Commons;—this was

^a F. 341. ^b F. 323.

certainly well meant for the Improvement of the Country; but the best Provisions may be made use of for the worst of Purposes.—In pursuance of this Power the Lords did inclose and divide their Commons, and the several Commoners had their respective Shares assigned to their commonable Houses;—but it was afterwards found, that by this Provision, and the Use that was made of it, the Country instead of being improved, would be much distressed; for the Commoners sold their respective Shares annexed to their commonable Houses, dissipated the Money, by which there was an Increase of Poor, who were to be maintained at a great Expence;—the Corporation applied to Parliament for a Repeal of that Clause; the Parliament confirmed the Inclosures and Divisions already made, on particular Conditions, and repealed that Clause so as to prevent any Thing of that sort being attempted for the Future; and this was the Alteration made by the First of King *James* the Second; * this was the last A-

mented by all good Men, but by none more than those whose Interests he with so much Spirit and Benevolence had advanced, patronized, and protected during a Course of Fifty-one Years in the *Bedford* Level.

In the private Walks of Life it is often remarked, that the Son thinks and acts exactly as his Father did before him.—Where Families supported by their Abilities and Consequence have their Histories read in a Nation's Eye, and remember'd, there this Similitude of Character is seen at different and very distant Periods; and after Generations are past and gone, those who have long slept with their Fathers, arise as it were and present themselves again on the great Stage of the World. And could the great *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, like the pious *Æneas*, have been blessed with reviewing his Posterity, had he seen,


*Ruffelia de Gente Nepotes,
Illustres animas, nostrumque in nomen ituras; **

with what Pleasure would he have beheld the great Personages that were to descend from him; and how amply would that desire of being remembered to the latest Times been gratified by a Prospect of living again, as it were,

* *Æneid*, Lib. 6. L. 777, 778.

in the Middle of the 18th Century, in the Character of his most noble and illustrious descendant *John Duke of Bedford*! when he had beheld him filling the first great Offices of the State to the general Satisfaction of all good Men, and given the Sanction of his entire Approbation, to the several Parts he had acted in the Service of the Nation,—He would with a benevolent Pleasure have viewed his kind Care and Attention to that which was the Work of his own Hands, and acknowledge the Protection and Countenance he extended to the *Bedford Level Corporation*, as a pious and gratefull Tribute to his own Memory.

The Corporation having undergone no Alterations in its Constitution for more than half a Century; the Duke of *Bedford* who perfectly comprehends its several Interests, and is no less zealous in promoting than he is able in understanding them, thought it highly necessary that such Amendments should be made in it, as Alteration of Circumstances. Extent of Commerce



when that which had always been called the *Bedford* Level, a Name which comprehended the whole Country, was canton'd into the three Districts of the *North* Level, the *Middle* Level and the *South* Level, then first arose Ideas of separate Interests, and the Proprietors of the Lands in each District, began to consider the Interest of his own District as distinct from and independent of the other;—strange Mistake, and founded only in Names! for the three Levels are all the Children of one common Parent draining, and as such have one common Interest;—their real Divisions may destroy them all, and like a natural Family their Strength arises from their Union.—Whatever Foundation this Reflection may have in Truth and Fact, yet after this Division, the Case was as it is represented; and it was carried so far, that during a Minority in the *Bedford* Family the *North* Level was in a great Measure totally alienated from the other two. And in the Year 1753, on stating the Account, the *Middle* and *South* Level were indebted to the Duke of *Bedford* and the Earl of *Lincoln*, as principal Proprietors of the *North* Level, on account of that Level, to the Amount of more than 18000*l.* a Sum which they could not possibly pay, though the Debt arose on a most solemn Contract, and was attended with all the Circumstances of Equity and Justice, that accompanies the fairest Transactions. The Duke
of

of *Bedford* saw the fatal Consequences this great Debt, which was still encreasing, might bring down on the other two Levels; he saw it with that concern which arose from his general Affection for the whole Country, he understood the Disease, and soon provided the Remedy. In the 27th Year of King *George* the Second, under his Countenance and Protection, the *Bedford* Level Corporation applied to Parliament, the Sum of, 14750*l.* was due to the Duke of *Bedford*, and 3150*l.* to the Earl of *Lincoln*; the Duke of *Bedford* most generously remitted the whole of his Debt, and the Security was cancell'd; the Earl of *Lincoln* as generously concurred with him in this Measure, and by the *North* Level Act, this Transaction received the Sanction of Parliament. In that Act the several Accounts between the Levels themselves, and between the Levels and the Creditors of the Corporation are settled, and such Provisions made, as will entirely prevent any thing of the same Kind from ever happen-


There are farther Provisions in that Act for the Purposes of draining the *North Level*, and for taking other Lands which adjoin to it, into a general Plan of draining; the whole is printed in this Collection, for though the latter Part of that Act of Parliament doth not any way affect the Constitution of the *Bedford Level Corporation*; yet the Editor thought it of great Consequence, to present to the Publick the whole thereof, as containing the most compleat System of that Kind of Policy, on which the modern Acts for draining are founded, of any that hath yet received the Sanction of the Legislature.

From the first Accounts of draining this Country, there seems to have been always a mutual Jealousy between those who were concerned in carrying on the Navigation thro' the Great Level, and those whose immediate Object was the work of draining. Those whose Business and Livelihood arose from being Carriers by Water, were never satisfied with, nor even thought they would have enough of their favourite Element, and seem to have been afraid that the Rivers themselves would have been reduced to dry Land; whilst those who proposed the Recovery and Preservation of this Country, meant only to confine those Rivers within their proper Bounds; and always suspected that the Navigators would, as much as in them lay, prevent that. Hence the

the Preservation of Navigation makes a Part of the Policy of the Laws for promoting the Purposes of draining. The Cause of their Jealousies, like many others, had no real Foundation in Facts, and arose from a partial View of that which was the Subject of it; whereas in Truth there is an Alliance between Draining and Navigation in the Great Level; it is a natural one, founded in Reason, and cemented by the strongest Ingredient that can make Alliances permanent, the true Interest of the several Parties concerned: Where was the Navigation through this Country, what was it before the draining was attempted?—It could be carried on in some Parts only in small Fishing Boats; in others where the Rivers were, it must be very uncertain and very expensive. There were no Banks to be made use of in Haling, and in general the Success of the Voyage depended on the Winds, and the labour of Mens Hands. A Dependence which those who are the least acquainted

the Nature of the Trade, to which it was to be subservient? The Inhabitants, whose Lot was thrown in this then miserable Country, had few Wants, as their Means of supplying them were very scanty. Luxury was an Idea they had not acquired, and their Wishes never carried them beyond a Desire of those Things, without which Life cannot subsist. But when the Adventurers had drained the Country, when in Consequence of that, it was peopled, when the Labour and Industry of the Inhabitants in tilling the Ground, was rewarded by bounteous Harvests; when in the sublime Language of sacred Writ *this great Valley stood so thick with Corn, that it did laugh and sing*; when the prophetic Part of the Charter of Incorporation, granted by King *Charles the First*, was fulfill'd, "that in those Places, which late-
 " ly presented nothing to the Eyes of the Be-
 " holders but great Waters, and a few Reeds
 " thinly scattered here and there, under the
 " Divine Mercy would be seen pleasant Pastures
 " of Cattle and Kine, and many Houses be-
 " longing to the Inhabitants."—Then it was that Navigation might have perceiv'd the Advantages that arose from its Alliance with the landed Interest, whose Object was draining. That Navigation was then first employed in carrying the Riches of this Country, either into the Inland Parts of this Kingdom, or to their Sea Ports, from whence it was carried all over the Globe;

the Returns that were made for what was carried out, produced Plenty at Home ; that Plenty soon introduced a sort of Luxury, which was no longer contented with the Necessaries of Life; and this established Commerce, a large Share of the Advantage of which, accrued to those who carried on the Navigation. Then too it was, that the Adventurers beholding the several little Fleets, that traversed the different Parts of this Country, freighted with its Produce, should with Wonder and Gratitude have acknowledged their Obligations to those, by whose kind Assistance they first became as it were a commercial People, and without whom in vain had they drained the Country, in vain had they till'd the Ground. Such might have been, such ought to have been, the kind Dispositions of these two Interests towards each other;—but Prejudice interfered, Obstinacy that constant Attendant on Prejudice lent her Aid, and the Suggestions of Reason passed by unnoticed. But however unnoticed Reason's



servation suffers nothing to pass unnoticed that may tend to the Happiness of the Great Level, having discovered these Dispositions, soon availed himself of them, to the great Advantage of all the several Interests concerned. Whatever Mechanical Advantage the Navigation of this Country had received by the Works of the Adventurers; though the Rivers by being contained within their Banks, had in some Places been so much deepened, as to admit the Passage of Vessels of greater Burthen than had before been us'd; though these Banks were of the greatest Advantage, serving as Roads by the Sides of Rivers for the Horses which draw the Boats along to pass; though Sluices had been built for draining, which much improved the Navigation; yet no Tolls had ever been paid, no Acknowledgments made by the Navigators, for the Assistance which they received from the great and expensive Works of the Adventurers;—the Equity and Justice of the Payment of such Tolls, were sufficiently understood, were established and settled by the Charter of Incorporation granted by King *Charles* the First; though it doth not appear that any Payments were made in Consequence thereof; Navigation was then in its Infancy; the Tolls had they been paid, at that Time perhaps were scarce worth the Expence that would have attended their Collection; and the subsequent Dispositions of the King to

Francis Earl of Bedford and the rest of the Adventurers, manifested at *Huntingdon*, cast a Cloud on that Charter from which it never after emerged, though it is still a subsisting Charter, and in as full Force now as when it was granted, except in such Parts of it as have been altered by the Interposition of the Legislature.

Be that as it may, such were the kind Dispositions of those whose Object was the Preservation of the Great Level by draining, and those who carried on the Navigation through the same towards each other, when the Duke of *Bedford* first undertook to obtain for the Country, those Advantages which might result therefrom,

There is a very considerable Navigation carried on through the Great Level from the Port of *Lynn* up into *Huntingtonshire* and *Northamptonshire*, by which the Inhabitants of these and the adjacent Counties, are furnished with many of the Necessaries as well as Luxuries of Life,

plied to the *Bedford* Level Corporation to deepen and scower it out. That Corporation saw the Necessity of the Work, acknowledged the Utility of it, but at the same Time confessed their Inability to undertake it, at so great an Expence as such a Work must amount to, which would either exhaust the Provisions made for the Maintenance of their General Works, or engage them in contracting a large Debt, which in the End would be of dangerous Consequences to the other Parts of the Great Level.—In this Situation were Things, when a Treaty was set on Foot by the Duke of *Bedford*, between the *Bedford* Level and those who carried on and were Principals interested in the Navigation. The Corporation of *Lynn* took the Lead on Behalf of the Merchants, and were assisted by the Honourable Mr. *Horace Walpole*, now Lord *Walpole* of *Wolterton* and Sir *John Turner*, Bart. at that Time their Representatives in Parliament, who manifested great Sagacity, Candour, and Diligence in the Part they acted for the common Good. Plans, Memorials, and Papers of different Kinds passed between the two Corporations, but there were some Points of Nicety and Difficulty which, notwithstanding the good Dispositions that both Parties brought with them to this Treaty, remain unsettled. To surmount these Difficulties, the Duke of *Bedford* himself went down into the Country, and with other Members of

the *Bedford* Level Corporation, in the Summer of the Year 1753, met a Committee of the *Lynn* Corporation at *Huntington*, where all the Matters in difference were maturely considered, and the general Outlines for an Act of Parliament were drawn.—The several Parties interested, well pleased with each other, agreed to apply to Parliament at the ensuing Sessions to obtain their Sanction for what they agreed would be so much for the mutual Benefit of Draining and Navigation. In pursuance of which, at the Meeting of the Parliament, a Bill was brought in, and was carried through both Houses with the greatest Unanimity and Success. This Act of Parliament is called the *Nene* Act.* The Policy of that Law is, by Tolls laid on the Navigation, to raise a Fund, for scowering out and deepening the River *Nene* in such a Manner, that both the Ends of Draining and Navigation may be thereby answered, —For this Purpose the Corporation of *Bedford* Level renounce the general Powers they had over this River and its Banks by the 15th of

may be supposed to be most able and zealous in advancing the Ends for which it was obtained. This is the first and only Act of this Kind which hath yet passed; an Act which those, who understand the several Interests of the Great Level, and the Navigation through it, look upon as a happy Presage of what may on the same Principle be expected hereafter. There are many considerable Navigations through the Great Level, but from the ouzy Nature of the Soil of the Beds of those Rivers, from the consequence of the Land-floods which go thorough the same to Sea, and which not passing thorough the general Outfall so fast as they come to it, stagnate for some Time and leave the Silt and Soil which they bring with them at the Bottoms of the Rivers; from these Causes those Navigations are not now so good as they formerly were.—In a Course of Time the Rivers must grow up to such a Degree, that though they may serve as Drains for the Country, they cannot be made use of for carrying on the Navigation. Before these Difficulties begin to act with their full Force, it may be hoped that this great Example of the *Nene* Act will be attended to, and that the Navigators will again co-operate with the *Bedford* Level Corporation in uniting their Efforts to remedy the Mischief.—To induce them to this, let them consider the great Advantages they have received, for near a Century, from the Banks of the

the *Bedford* Level Corporation, which have been Roads for their Horses to hale on. Let them consider the great Damages these Banks have sustained thereby, and that they have not contributed at all to their Repair. Let them look back on former Times, and observe the Difference of the Burthens of the Vessels that were made use of in those Times and these, and the Weight, Strength, and Number of Horses which are in consequence thereof employed;—They may now, which they never had before, have an Opportunity of seeing the Constitution of the *Bedford* Level Corporation and its Policy at one View; they will find that the Members of that Corporation, are Trustees not for Navigation but Draining; that they are not to obstruct Navigation, but that they are not warranted to dispose of their Revenue solely in promoting it. That if, from the Course and Order of Nature, that Navigation is decaying, they may sit still and observe it, till that decay affects Draining; then those for whom

to follow the Example of the *New* Act, where Circumstances are or may be similar? On Principles of Prudence and Justice they cannot, and from what hath happened they have already shewn their Dispositions in these Times to adopt no other Principles.

Commerce in its Infancy was carried on by Exchange, because in that State of it few were the Articles of which it consisted, few were the Merchants who were concerned it. It appears from the Accounts of the Inland Traffick of *Africa*, that the Moors exchange their Salt for Gold;—a Heap of Salt is put upon the Ground, near it a Heap of Gold; if of the two Heaps that are valued against each other, the supposed Value of one exceeds that of the other, something is taken from the Gold, or the Heap of Salt is increased till they are brought to such an Equality, as the Merchants concerned are satisfied with, and each Party carries away with him what he hath thus received in Exchange.—As Commerce encreases, Exchange decreases, the Variety of Articles of which it consists are too bulky to be carried about, and such Carriage would be attended with an Expence inconsistent with the economical Rules which are of its Essence. Hence some fixed portable Sign of the Value of Merchandize in general was to be found out, and Money was introduced in Commerce as that portable Sign;—but Money consisting principally

ly of two Metals, of which there is only a certain Quantity current at any given Time, Commerce may so encrease that there may not be a sufficient Quantity of those Metals to represent the whole Quantity of Objects that are in Commerce.—This Defect in the General Sign introduced Credit;—Credit in its Infancy was that mutual Confidence which one Merchant had in another, that on his Promise, in Consideration of Merchandize by him received, he would at a future Time give a certain Quantity of Money for what he had so received.—This Transaction was founded on a Principle of Honour, and its Advantages in Commerce were soon perceived;—but this Credit was personal only between two, and serv'd only the two Parties concerned in it.—This put Men upon carrying it farther, which was done by reducing this Engagement into Writing, which besides the Advantage that arises from the Certainty and Evidence of the Agreement, had a farther one of making the Credit assignable; and

great trading Companies of this Kingdom carry on their commercial Business, whilst those possessed of their assignable Securities, can either keep them, or convert them into Money, and find no Inconvenience from such a Mode of Property.—To this same Principle are owing the great publick Improvements in the Roads, Navigation and Harbours of this Kingdom; for it is on this Principle that the Funds necessary for such Improvements have been raised, as without it the Money required for the Original Outset could never have been supplied, and this Country had still remained without those Advantages which are of the utmost Consequence to it as a trading Country.—This Principle is so much in common Use, and so wove up into all publick Transactions, that if we could now suppose a new Body erected, whose Object was Improvement, Commerce, or any such End as publick Bodies are formed for, that Sums of Money were to be borrowed for such Ends; unless the Security or Mark of Credit was assignable, the Embarrassment and Difficulties that would arise from such a shackle in their Constitution, would be attended with great Mischief, and in the End prevent their arriving at that flourishing State, which might otherwise be expected with some Degree of Certainty from an established Credit, Ability and Integrity in its several Members.

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However digressive the Editor may seem to have been, yet he flatters himself, that the Propriety of what he hath said will appear when the Principles are applied to the Policy of an Act of Parliament which passed in the 27th of the late King, and which is called the Bond Act.

From the Nature of the Operations of Draining; an annual Sum necessary for the ordinary Support of the Works, after they are finished, may be nearly calculated;—but no Calculation can be made with any Degree of Certainty of the Expences, that may arise from the extraordinary Accidents to which those Works are liable;—the Enemies to be contended with, are the Elements of Water and Air; and though when the Rivers glide gently in their Course, attended by Wind Breezes to their Outfall, the Adventurers in Draining may look on with Pleasure and Security; yet are they always indulged with this flattering Prospect? Floods and Tempests will have their Turn, level the strongest Banks, and in a Moment, as it were,

require Sums of Money, which the ordinary Course of the Revenue will not supply; add to this, that the Art of Draining receiving great Assistance from Experience, new and expensive Works may in a Course of Time be thought necessary, which will still make the general Expence more uncertain. Soon after the Act of the 15th of *Car.* 2. the *Bedford* Level Corporation, having by that Act a common Seal, made use of that Seal for borrowing Money either for repairing of Breaches in their Banks, or for such new Works as the Judgment of those concerned therein thought necessary. They gave Bonds to their Creditors, and paid the Interest out of their annual Taxes;—those Bonds were paid off by borrowing Money of new Creditors, to whom new Bonds were made when the old were cancelled. Whoever reads and considers that Act of Parliament, cannot well entertain a Doubt, but that the Corporation Creditors could not obtain any Satisfaction for their Debts at Law, but the Goods or Lands the Corporation were possessed or seised of at the Time their Demands were recovered. The legal Estate of the 95000 Acres, on which the Taxes were to be laid for the Maintenance and Support of the Level, were by such Conveyances as the Act of Parliament directs, vested in the respective Members of the Corporation to whom they were conveyed, in their natural Capacity, liable to such Taxes. At Law there-
fore.

fore the Creditors had no Remedy for the Recovery of their Debts, except from the Goods or Lands of the Corporation, which was a very inadequate Security. This Question considered on Principles of Equity, appears more favourable on the Behalf of the Creditors;—the Money borrowed by the Corporation under their common Seal, was applied for the Support and Preservation of the Level, whereby the Proprietors of the 95000 Acres were eased from Taxes to that Value, which must otherwise have been laid on them for that Purpose; and had there been any occasion for it, it might have been worth the Creditors While to have applied to the Court of Chancery, and made an Experiment whether that Court would not have obliged the Corporation to execute the Powers they had by that Act of taxing the 95000 Acres for its Support and Preservation, by laying a Tax thereon for the Payment of such Debts as were contracted for that Purpose, and the Moneys borrowed so applied. Thus even in the Infancy of this Corporation, their Credit, by no Provisions being made for it, being somewhat Problematical, fatal Consequences might have arose from this Defect; but those who were well attached to the Undertaking, furnished them with such Sums as were wanted. In Process of Time, those who remembered the original Undertaking being dead, and that Credit which arose from their

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Partiality being at an End, the Corporation were forced, as it were, to go out into the World with their Credit. Great Sums were at different Times paid for procuring Money, and great Expences were incurred by the constant Exchange of Securities, which arose from their not having such a Credit as was assignable at Market. On a Review of the Necessities of the Corporation, and the Nature of their Credit, one cannot help wondering at its Support, under the many Trials it hath undergone. This can only be accounted for from the illustrious Personages who have been Governors of the Body, that Credit hath been principally supported by the *Bedford* Family, who have always been most ready, when call'd upon, to advance such Sums as were necessary for their pressing Exigencies and Demands. Large Sums have been advanced by them, the Times and Manner of the Payment of which have been left to the Corporation when it should best suit their Finances; Instances of this beneficent Protection occur frequently in the Journals of their Proceedings, and *Wriothefly* late Duke of *Bedford*, left them by his last Will, as a noble Mark of his Affection for the Great Level, a Legacy of Two thousand five hundred Pounds; he died young, and was not above four Years Governor of the Corporation; but by this Instance of his Bounty he shew'd that benevolent Regard for that Country, which makes a Part
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of their great Characters from whom he was descended.

This was the general State and Nature of the Corporation Credit. By the *North Level* Act, which separates that Part of the Level from the other two as to Matters of Revenue, the Account of the proportional Share of the general Debt of the Corporation, which the Proprietors of the *North Level* should sustain, is settled, and a Fund created for the Payment of it; and the Proprietors of that Level stand totally discharged from the Remainder of the Debt then owing, or which should afterwards be contracted on account of the other two Levels. This was done with the unanimous Consent of all the Creditors. The Account thus stated and settled, there remained a Debt due of 28,400*l.* on account of the Middle and *South Levels*. The Revenues of the Corporation, and the State of their Finances having undergone a Review in Parliament; and that which was the Foundation of the original Cre-

poration, this being the only material Defect therein, a Bill was brought into Parliament, and pass'd in the 29th Year of his late Majesty's Reign;—by that Act a Fund is established for the Payment of the Creditors, ample for its Object, and so sacred as to its Application, that the Corporation are restrain'd from ever breaking in upon it, to their Prejudice. A Guard is placed against the Corporation's ever extending their Credit, beyond the proper Limits of the Fund that is to answer it; for the specific Sum, which they may borrow, and beyond which they cannot go, is settled. The old Bonds are to be exchange'd for new, and their new Bonds are made assignable without Stamps; these are the great Outlines of that Act of Parliament, by which already large Sums have been sav'd to the Corporation which heretofore were us'd to be paid for procuring Money, the Expence of making out new Bonds or the Change of Creditors prevented, and the Credit of the Corporation put on as respectable and solid a Foundation, as it is possible for Credit to have.

Thus the Editor hath gone through the History of the several Alterations made in the Constitution of the *Bedford* Level Corporation, since the Death of *William* Duke of *Bedford*, and brought it down from the Beginning to the present Time. He hath endeavoured to represent Facts as they are, and only such Facts

as are necessary for the better understanding the Frame and Policy of the Laws he hath published. He hath collected these Facts from general Histories, Proceedings of Commissioners of Sewers, Records, and Papers which belong to the Corporation; he hath been assisted too by a Collection of Papers, printed as well as Manuscript, collected by Lord *Oxford*, now in the Possession of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Kinnoul*, and which that noble Lord lent him with a Politeness and Literary Benevolence, which makes a Part of a very amiable Character.

In the Course of these last twenty Years there have been many Acts of Parliament obtain'd by Proprietors of Lands in the Great Level, for draining separate Districts; but by these no Alteration is made in the Constitution of the Corporation; for they all contain a Clause, reserving the Powers of the Corporation as established by the 15th of *Charles* the Second.

These Acts are upon this Account omitted

Principles of Equity and Justice, the true Foundation on which all Contracts ought to be considered; and that the Opposition they have met with in Parliament hath been in general begun and carried on upon those little narrow Principles of Self-interest, which are in their own Nature destructive of all great Objects of public Good.

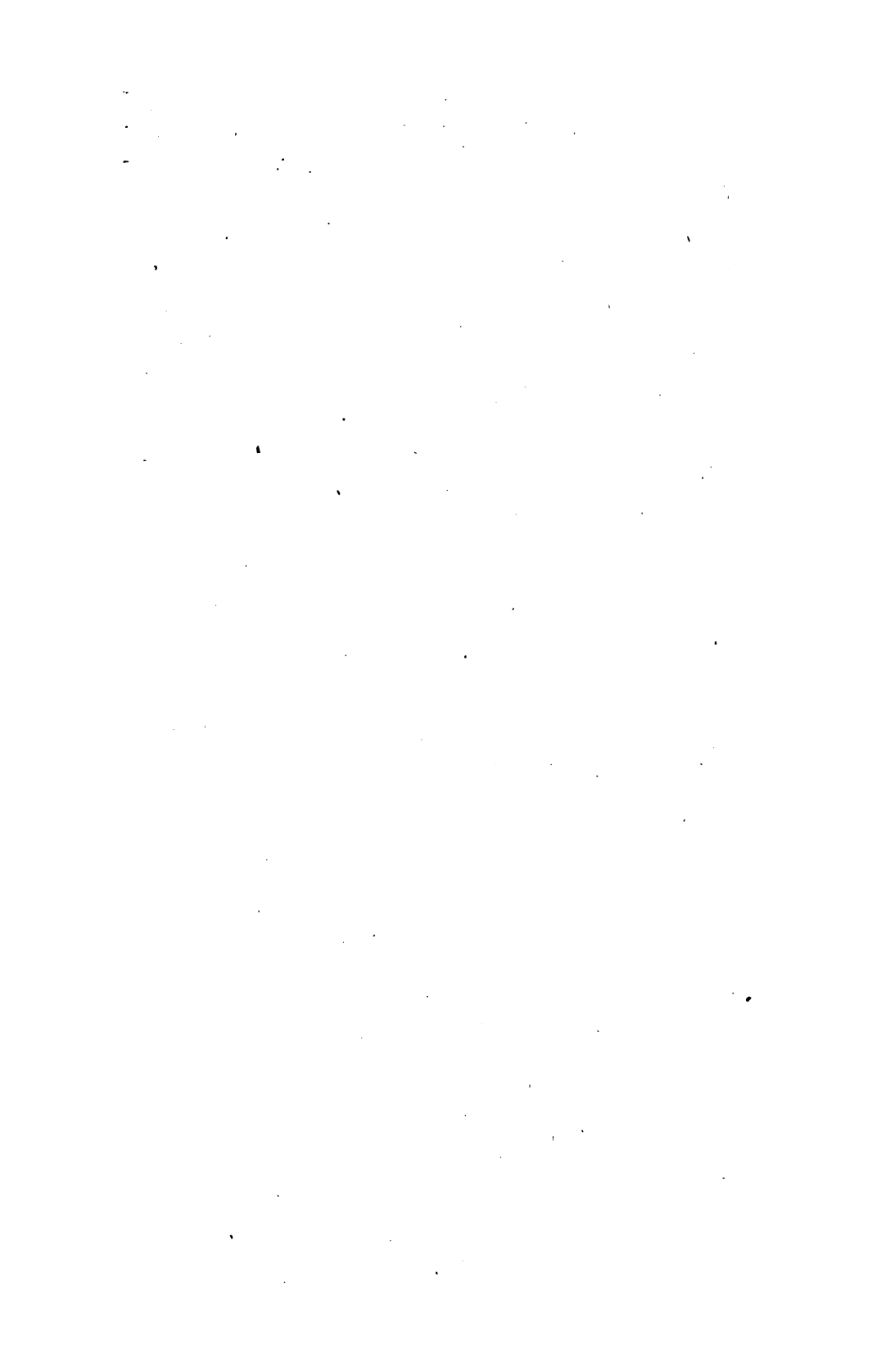
By a Clause in the 1st of *Charles the Second* the Governors, Bailiffs, and Conservators of the Great Level are impowered to exercise the Laws and Customs of *Rumney Marsh*, and appoint such Officers as these Laws warrant. This Power given to the Corporation induc'd the Editor to look into the Charter, and the Laws and Customs of that Marsh, as by that Clause they appear to be adopted into the Constitution of the Corporation; but on Examination he found the two Constitutions so different, that notwithstanding this Power, it is not possible to apply those Laws in any one Instance in the Government of the *Bedford Level* Corporation. *Rumney Marsh* is a large and rich Tract of Land, defended from the Inroads of the Sea by great and expensive Works; its Constitution is as old as *Henry the Third*, and is a very wise one for the Ends design'd by it. Its general Reputation induc'd those who meant well to the Great Level, to ingraft it into the Constitution of the Corporation, without well considering those Laws, that if any Advantages could

could arise therefrom, whatever they were, the Corporation might have them; and on this Account it is, that those Laws and Customs are not to be met with in this Collection.

The Editor cannot take his Leave without expressing his most ardent Wishes for the Happiness and Prosperity of that Body whose Laws he now publishes; these Wishes are founded in a Gratitude, and in an Affection for the Great Level, which becomes him. The Sincerity of his Wishes for that Happiness and Prosperity he cannot stronger evince, than by his Prayers for a long lasting Continuance of that illustrious House, which at first form'd and hath ever since animated that Body.

Stet fortuna domus, avi numerentur avorum.

May a *Russel* Duke of *Bedford* preside as Governor of the Corporation till Time shall be no more!





LYNN LAW.



LYNN LAW.

CAROLUS, *Dei Gratia, Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ Rex, fidei Defensor, &c. Omnibus ad quos præsentēs literæ pervenerint, Salutem.*

INSPEXIMUS, Ordinationes quasdam sive decreta de Le Sewers indentat' per quosdam Commissionarios nostros, virtute Commissionis nostræ nuper ordinat', inactat', stabilit' et decret' manu nostra propria signat', in Cancellar' nostra retornat' et in filaciis ibidem de Record' residen', in hæc verba.

CAROLUS Rex a ceo assenta.

AT a Sessions of Sewers at King's Lynn in the County of Norfolk, the thirteenth Day of January in the sixth Year of the Reign of our Gracious Sovereign Lord King Charles, over England, &c. Touching the draining of the Fens and Low Grounds within the Counties of Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge, Huntingdon, and the Isle of Ely,

within the Limits of this Commission, holden in the Presence of the Right Honourable *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*; and before Sir *Robert Heath* Knight, his Majesty's Attorney General, Sir *Miles Sandys* Knight and Baronet, Sir *John Carleton* Baronet, Sir *Robert Bevill* Knight of the *Bath*, Sir *John Cutts*, Sir *John Peyton*, Sir *John Bell*, Sir *John Hare*, Sir *John Poley*, Sir *Thomas Dereham*, Knights; Doctor *Henry Butts*, Vice-Chancellor of *Cambridge*; *Henry Smith*, Doctor of Divinity; *Henry Cromwell*, Junior, *Sinolphus Bell*, *John Percivall*, Mayor of the Town of *King's Lynn*, *Francis Parlett*, *Everard Buckworth*, *Thomas Edwards*, *Edmund Skipwith*, *Humberstone March*, *Thomas Dawes*, *Andrew Burrell*, *John Oldfield*, *Thomas Dereham*, *William Leak*, *Gregory Gawfell*, *Robert Gawfell*, *Thomas Drury*, *Thomas Fincham*, *Thomas Cross*, *William Hobson*, *William Hayward*, *George Glapthorne*, Esquires; and others to the Number of Forty and one, Commissioners of Sewers, then and there assembled by Authority of his Highnesses Commission of Sewers to them and others directed, it is ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, as

Year of his late Majesty's Reign, and at the Town of *Cambridge*, at a general Assembly of the Commissioners of Sewers there, for those Counties, his then Majesty having declared by his Royal Letters, that he himself would undertake the said Work at his own Charge; for the Satisfaction of his Majesty's great Expences in that Behalf, the Quantity of one hundred and twenty thousand Acres of the said Marsh, Fenny Wastes, and surrounded Grounds, was, by an Act of Sewers then made, decreed to be assigned unto his Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, to be allotted out, held and enjoyed, in such Manner as by the said Act of Sewers is particularly and at large expressed; but his late Majesty or his now Majesty, by Reason of their other great and more important Occasions, nor any other on their Behalf, have hitherto undertaken the said Work in hand, whereby the said Act, and all the Intentions thereof, became hitherto fruitless and void.

And whereas his now Majesty, taking into his princely Consideration the miserable Estate of that whole Country, which of late hath been more surrounded with Waters, than ever in former Times, to the Hazard of those Parts thereof, which formerly yielded some Profit, and to the extreme Danger of the Persons and Estates of the Inhabitants of the Places near adjoining, and of rendering the Work almost impossible to be done, if in Time the same be not undertaken and prosecuted effectually, hath several Times re-

The Draining
recommended
by the King
to the Com-
missioners,

commended the same to the special Care of the Commissioners of Sewers.

A Tax laid by the said Commissioners, but never paid.

And whereas, in Pursuance of so gracious an Intimation unto them, for their own private and for the Publick good, the Commissioners of Sewers, at a Sessions of Sewers holden at *Huntingdon* the twentieth Day of *January* in the fifth Year of his now Majesty's Reign, for Preparation of the said Work, did lay a Tax of six Shillings the Acre upon all and every the said Fehny, Marsh, Waste and surrounded Grounds; to be paid within a certain Time then appointed, and now long sithence past, in the said last mentioned Act expressed, which Tax or Sum of six Shillings the Acre, nor any Part thereof, was paid according to the said Act.

A Recital of a Contract made with Sir Cornelius Veruyn-den.

And whereas, at a Sessions of Sewers holden at *King's Lynn* in the said County of *Norfolk*, upon the first Day of *September* now last past, the Commissioners of Sewers then and there assembled, being Forty-seven in Number, in the Behalf of themselves and the rest of the Country, did contract with Sir Cor-



indifferently, in such Sort, Manner and Form, as hereafter in and by these Presents shall be expressed.

And whereas, he the said Sir Cornelius Veranyden hath, upon a Map or Card, described the said Penny, Marsh, Waste and surrounded Grounds, and the Outfalls thereof, by Lines or other Descriptions, and also by Writing, expressed and set down to the Commissioners of Sewers, what Drains, Sasses, Slocces, Banks, Cuts and other Works, he intended to make for the Draining of the said surrounded Grounds, which was well approved of by the said Commissioners now present, and he was contented to have undertaken the said Work, so as he might have had Ninety-five thousand Acres in all, to be allotted and assigned unto him for his Charge and Pains, and not otherwise; but the Commissioners and Country being unwilling to enlarge the Quantity or Number of Acres unto him, and the Country by their several Petitions, remaining with the Clerk of the Sewers, shewing much Unwillingness, that any Contract should be made with an Alien born, or any other Stranger, and being humble Suitors to the Right Honourable the Earl of Bedford now present, for so great and so noble a Work, so much concerning the whole Country, and his Lordship also in his own Particular would be the Undertaker thereof, which Motion proceeding so freely from the Country, and being seconded by all the Commissioners present, his Lordship yielded unto, and did agree to undertake the said Work.

Sir Cornelius Veranyden demands for the Draining.

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ars.

Now, the said Earl, according to the Agreements in these Presents expressed, doth promise and undertake, that he shall and will do his best Endeavour at his own Charge, to drain the said Marsh, Fenny, Waste and surrounded Grounds, in such Manner as that they shall be fit for Meadow or Pasture, or Arable, and shall begin the said Work this present Year, and continue and go on with the said Work without Cessation, except at such Times only, as shall be unseasonable for that Purpose, until the whole Work shall be fully finished; and that by God's Blessing he will fully finish the same within the Compass of six Years, to be accounted from the first Day of *October* now next ensuing, unless he be hindered by the Interruption of the Country, or some others by their Means, Consent or Procurement, or by such other casual Means, as the Commissioners of Sewers, or the greatest Number of them, in their Judgments shall approve to be just Reasons for the further deferring thereof; and the said Earl to have no Recompence for his Charges and Pains, otherwise than according to the true Meaning

so by Drains or otherwise led along to the Outfalls; it is agreed that such Out-flowings by sudden Waters, which shall not lie longer upon the Lands than in convenient Time the same may pass away again, shall not be held or esteemed to be a not Draining thereof, according to the true Meaning of these presents.

And it is further enacted, adjudged, ordered and decreed, that Meers, Meer Grounds, Pooles and Lakes, and such Grounds as shall according to Art, and by the Approbation of the Commissioners be left for Forelands and Receptracles of Waters, shall not be accounted to be such Grounds, as the said Earl by his Agreement should drain, nor shall be accounted any Part of those Grounds, by or out of which he is to have his Recompence for the said Work.

No Lakes, Meers or Forelands to be accounted any Part of the said Land given for the Draining

And it is further enacted, ordered, adjudged and decreed, that the said Earl shall have Ninety-five thousand Acres of the said Lands to be indifferently allotted, assigned and set out unto him of the several Sorts and Qualities of the said Grounds, according to their several Natures and Goodness, by six of the Commissioners of Sewers, whereof three to be of the Quorum, upon which setting out, and Allotments to be made, the Commissioners, who shall set out the same, are to have Respect to the Commoners, that their parts may lie next to their own Dwellings, as near as may conveniently be.

The Earl of Bedford to have 95000 Acres, &c. the Commoners Parts to be laid out next to their Dwelling.

And

Earl of Bedford's Part to be set out within three Months after the Survey.

A Corporation and 40000 Acres of the Earl's Proportion to be liable for the Preservation of the Works for ever.

AND it is agreed that the Proportion aforesaid, intended for and unto the said Earl as aforesaid, shall be allotted and set out before the Feast Day of *St. Michael the Archangel* now next ensuing, for so much thereof as before that Time shall be surveyed, and for the Residue within three Months after the same shall be surveyed; and to the End that the said Work of Draining being once performed and finished, may be for ever after maintained; It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the said Commissioners, together with the said Earl, shall become humble Suitors to his Majesty, to incorporate the said Earl, and such as he shall associate unto him, into one Body Corporate or Politick, to have Continuance for ever, thereby to enable them the better to make Laws, Ordinances and Orders, for the performing and maintaining of the said Works, and to have Power over the Land assigned, to perform and maintain the said Works and hereafter followeth; but over no other Lands, and that the whole Ninety-five thousand Acres shall entirely be made liable to the first doing and finishing thereof; And that forty thousand Acres thereof, to be indifferently assigned and set out for that Purpose by the Commissioners as aforesaid, shall be liable to the Maintenance and Continuance thereof for ever; And the said forty thousand Acres first and immediately to be under the Order and Government of the said Corporation for the End aforesaid; And upon their Neglect or Default,

to be under the Rule, Order, and Power of the Commissioners of Sewers for that Purpose aforesaid.

And it is further ordered, adjudged, en- So soon as
acted and decreed, that as soon and so often, 30000 Acres
as the said Earl or his Assigns shall have laid in one entire
dry and drained an intire Proportion of the Quantity shall
said Land, fit to be performed as one Work, be drained, the
containing the Quantity of thirty thousand Earl to have
Acres or more; that then and so often the his Allotment
said Earl shall have allotted, assigned, set out, of Part of it
and assured unto and for him, his Heirs and made.
Assigns, his Proportion and Part thereof,
according to the Rate and Proportion of
Ninety-five thousand Acres, for the whole
Work.

It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged Divisions to be
and decreed, that the Owners of the said made by the
Lands shall divide and sever their Lands one Land Owners.
from an other, unless they shall rather desire
to lie undivided, by such sufficient Partitions,
Dikes and Fences, as shall be necessary to con-
vey or carry away the Rain Water towards the
great Drains, and that such Partitions and Fence
Dikes, if any such should be made, shall be
made by them in such an uniform Manner, as
may best conduce to the perfecting of the
whole Work, by the Advice of the said Earl
or of the said Corporation; but by the Di-
rection of the said Commissioners.

It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and Highways and
decreed, that the Commissioners of Sewers Passages.
shall or may set out convenient Highways and
Passages by Land throughout the said whole
Level, such as by the Judgment of the said
Com-
Corr-

Commissioners shall be necessary to make Passages and Drifts to and from the said Lands by Bridges or otherwise.

vision for
igation.

Provided always, and it is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the Port and Haven of *King's Lynn* shall be preserved, and the Navigation Passage and Highways, in, upon and about all and every the Navigable Rivers within the Limits of this Commission, as namely the River of *Ouzt*, *Grant*, *Nean*, *Welland* and *Glean*, shall be likewise preserved, and no Prejudice, Annoyance, Hurt or Hindrance done to them or any of them, by any of the Means aforesaid; And if it should happen that any such Prejudice, Annoyance, Hurt or Hindrance shall be committed or done in, upon or about any the said navigable Rivers, contrary to the Intent and Meaning of this Law; that upon Complaint thereof, it shall and may be lawful from Time to Time for eight of the said Commissioners, whereof the Vice-Chancellor of the University of *Cambridge* for the Time being, and the Mayors of *King's Lynn* aforesaid and *Cambridge* for the Time also being, shall

And, it is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That for the Safety of *Holland*, Hundred of *Wishich*, and other Parts thereof, *Clowes Crofs Drain* shall be kept within Soil or Banks, or if any Prejudice shall happen thereby, that six of the Commissioners shall from Time to Time reform the Excesses, or else that the said Earl or his Assigns shall make Recompence for the Losses which shall happen thereby, to the particular Owners of the Lands thereby annoyed.

For the Safety of *Holland* Hundred of *Wishich*, *Clowes Crofs Drain* to be kept under Soil.

It is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the new Rivers, Cuts and Drains to be made by the said Earl and his Assigns, and the Banks thereof, and the Forelands on the Inside of the Bank not exceeding fifty or threescore Foot at the most in Breadth, shall belong and be to the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, in Respect he and they are to maintain the same, he and they paying, for the several Lands of any particular Owner thereof, such Recompence as the Commissioners shall think fit; And that there shall be no Passages made or suffered by or upon the said Banks, except only for towing of Boats along the same, in such Sort as shall be allowed by the Commissioners; But it is ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the old and ancient Rivers and Drains; and the Fishings thereof, shall be and continue unto the Owners thereof, in such Sort as formerly they did, or hereafter shall of Right belong, only they shall not therein or thereupon make, erect or maintain any Weres, Fishgarths, Damms, or other Impediments, whereby

All new Rivers, Cuts, &c. to belong to the Earl, old ones to the former Owners.

whereby the River or Passage of the Water may be hindered, which if they shall at any Time do, and the same be not removed and abated by themselves within ten Days after Monition to that Purpose given by the said Corporation, that then the said Corporation, by Warrant of the Commissioners of Sewers or any two of them, shall cause the same to removed according to the Law of Sewers, at the Charge of those who erected or continued those Nuisances.

Liberty to
make Drains
and Cuts, and
take Earth
any where,
giving Re-
compence only
for the Seve-
rals.

And it is further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, That the said Earl, his Assigns and Workmen, may freely take such Earth, and dig and make such Drains and Cuts, for the making and maintaining of all and every of the said Works, off and from the Lands next or near adjoining to the Place, as shall be needful, making such Allowance and Recompence for the Damage which may happen thereby to any private Person, by digging of his several Land, as the Commissioners shall adjudge to be just and equal. And if any riotous or unlawful Act shall be committed either openly or secretly, to the

And it is further ordered, enacted, ad- Melioration.
 judged and decreed, That the Owners, Farmers, and Occupiers of all such Grounds or Banks, as shall have and receive Benefit or Ease by their Works, and yet no Part of their Lands shall be taken and allotted towards the making up of the said Ninety-five thousand Acres, shall contribute and pay unto the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, such Sums of Money as the said Commissioners or any six of them, whereof three of them to be of the Quorum, shall rate, assess and adjudge to be reasonable, having Respect to the Profit and Ease which they and every of them respectively shall receive by Means of the said Works, upon pain to forfeit double the Sum for every Month by which it shall be unpaid.

And the said Earl doth desire, and the said Commissioners for his better Encouragement do promise and agree, that they will become humble Suitors with him the said Earl unto his Majesty; that the said Ninety-five thousand Acres to be assigned and assured unto him, his Heirs and Assigns, for his Recompence as aforesaid, may be held in free and common Socage, and not otherwise, and without paying any Rent thereout, or giving any Recompence for the same, unto the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, other than a Fee-farm Rent of ten Pounds *per* the Year; and that if any other Rents are or shall happen to be issuing or payable out of the said Ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, to his Majesty, or to any other Person

The Earl's Proportion to be held in free Socage, paying his Majesty a Fee-farm Rent of 10 *l.* yearly, and free of all other Incumbrances.

Person or Persons, Body corporate and politick, the same from Time of the Allotment, Assigning or Assuring thereof to the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns as aforesaid, shall be charged upon the Residue of the Lands out of which the same are or shall be issuing, and the Part or Portion allotted and assigned to the said Earl, his Heirs or Assigns, for his Recompence as aforesaid, to be thereof discharged or saved harmless for ever.

And to the End the said Earl may the more confidently undertake and perfect the said Work, and be assured to enjoy the said Ninety-five thousand Acres, as the Fruit and Recompence of his Labour and Charge; and the Country also may be the better assured of, to have and enjoy that Benefit by the said Work, which they expect in the Residue of said Lands now surrounded, in lieu of so great a Quantity of Land, which they are to part with as aforesaid.

His Majesty to
release all Be-
nefits of the
Act of Sewers
made to his

It is mutually agreed and fully concluded by and between the said Commissioners and the said Earl, that they shall become humble Suitors to the King's most excellent Majesty.

the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, that it may in the due form of Law be confirmed by the Decree of the Honourable Court of Chancery ; and that his Majesty would also vouchsafe to recommend it to the Right Honourable the Lords and others of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, that it may there be ordered as Matter of State not to be altered or impeached, having received the Approbation of that Honourable Board, and that whensoever a Parliament shall be called, and a Bill being then preferred to the two Houses of that High Court of Parliament, and the same be then passed as a Law, his Majesty would be graciously pleased for the full and final Confirmation thereof, to give his Royal Assent thereunto, and that his Majesty would be graciously pleased, for these his Royal Favours vouchsafed to this poor distressed Part of his Country, which can receive no Relief or Help, but by his Royal Hands in giving Life to this Law, to accept of the Quantity of twelve thousand Acres, Parcel of the said Ninety-five thousand Acres, to be assured by the said Earl or his Heirs, to the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, to be held and enjoyed by them for ever, freed and discharged of and from all Right, Title or Interest of Common, or otherwise to be claimed or demanded by the said Earl, or any other Person or Persons whatever ; the said twelve thousand Acres to be layed together in one or two entire Pieces or Quantities, out of such of the said surrounded Lands as now are Parcel of the Manor of *Whittlesey*, or other Manors

C

thereto

thereto adjoining; which Quantity of twelve thousand Acres the said Earl and Country, by an unanimous Consent, do humbly offer unto his Majesty as a thankful Acknowledgment of his gracious Favour, in recommending the said Work and perfecting the same with his Royal Favour and Assent, as aforesaid.

Composition
to be given to
the Earl for
small Propor-
tions being in
Severalty.

Provided always, and it is lastly ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that when it shall fall out, the several Lands or Half several Lands of any Owner shall lie in such small Portions together, as do not exceed the Quantity of thirty Acres in any one Piece together, whereby it shall or may be inconvenient and over chargeable to divide a proportionable Part thereof, to be allotted to the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, and severed out from the Residue of the said Parcels of Lands, which are to remain to the Owner and Owners thereof, that in every such Case the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, at his and their own Choice, shall either have the Lands in kind allotted unto them, and to be severed out by them, or shall have so much Re-

In Witness whereof the Commissioners above named have hereunto put their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year above written.

Nos autem sep' al' tenores ordinal' sive Decret' prædict' ad requisitionem Francisci Comitis Bedford, duximus exemplificand' per præsentis, In cujus rei Testimonium has literas nostras fecimus patentes, Ac eisdem tam magnum sigill' nostrum Angliæ quam Sigillum nostrum Ducat' nostri Lancast' apponi fecimus, Teste me ipso apud Canbury sexto decimo die Julii Anno Regni nostri septimo.

Cesar.

Rob. Rich.	}	Clericos.
Jof. Mitchel.		



INDENTURE

OF

FOURTEEN PARTS.

27 Feb. 19 Car. 2.

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INDENTURE

OF

FOURTEEN PARTS.

BY J. H. G. G.

T H E
I N D E N T U R E
O F
F O U R T E E N P A R T S .

THIS Indenture consisting of fourteen Parts, made the Seven and Twentieth Day of *February* in the Seventh Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *Charles*, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France* and *Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, &c. **Between** Parties to this the Right Honourable *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, Indenture. of the first Part; *Oliver* Earl of *Bullingbrooke* of the second Part; *Edward* Lord *Gorges* of the third Part; Sir *Robert Heath* Knight, Lord Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, of the fourth Part; Sir *Miles Sandys* of *Wilberton* within the *Isle of Ely* in the County of *Cambridge*, Knight and Baronet, of the fifth Part; Sir *William Russel* of *Chipsenham* in the said County of *Cambridge*, Knight and Baronet, of the sixth Part; Sir *Robert Bevill* of *Chesterton* in the County of *Huntingdon*, Knight of the Honourable Order of the *Bath*, of the seventh Part;

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Part; Sir *Thomas Tyrington* of *Tyrington* in the County of *Buckingham*, Knight, of the eighth Part; Sir *Philibert Verners* of *Corin* in the County of *York*, Knight, of the ninth Part; *William Sames*, Doctor of the Law, of the tenth Part; *Anthony Hammond* of *Sar Albons* in the County of *Kent*, Esquire, of the eleventh Part; *Samuel Spalding* of the Town of *Cambridge* in the said County of *Cambridge*, Gentleman, of the twelfth Part; *Andrew Herrell* of *London*, Gent. of the thirteenth Part; and Sir *Robert Lovett* of *Liscombe* in the said County of *Bucks*, Knight, of the fourteenth Part; Witnesseth, That whereas a Session of Sewers was, by his Majesty's Commission under his Highnesses Great Seal of *England*, holden at *King's Lynn* in the County of *Norfolk*, the thirteenth Day of *January* in the sixth Year of his now Majesty's Reign, for the better and surrounded Grounds within the said County of *Norfolk*, and the Counties of *Suffolk*, *Northampton*, *Cambridge*, *Huntingdon*, *Lincoln* and the *Isle of Ely*, which Commission was specially intended for the great Work of the Draining of the Great Fens and

maining with the Clerk of Sewers, and at the earnest Desire of the rest of the Commissioners of Sewers, then and there assembled, the said Right Honourable *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, who was likewise one of the Commissioners and then present, being a great Owner of those Fennies, was moved to the End that so noble a Work might be effectually performed, that his Lordship would be the Undertaker thereof upon such Condition as should be agreed upon between his Lordship and the rest of the Commissioners, on the Behalf of the said several Counties; unto which Motion the said Earl, out of his Desire to further so Publick and good a Work, did give his Consent, and thereupon it was ordered and decreed by the rest of the said Commissioners, that the said Earl should undertake the said Work at his own Charge, and should have the Quantity of Ninety-five thousand Acres of the said surrounded Lands, for his Recompence, to be assigned, set out and assured to him and his Assigns, in such Sort, as by the said Act of Sewers is expressed; Twelve thousand Acres whereof, are to be granted and disposed of to the King's Majesty, for his Use as by the said Act it doth appear. **And whereas**

the said Earl undertook so great a Work upon the Confidence he had of the Aid and Assistance therein from divers other Gentlemen, who by his good Example and Encouragement would become Adventurers with him, since which Time the Parties to these Presents have agreed to become Adventurers, and the said Earl is willing to admit them to be Adventurers

Earl of Bedford undertakes the Work, on Confidence that others would become Adventurers.

<p>Proportion of Land divided into Twenty Shares.</p> <p>Number of Shares each Adventurer engages for.</p> <p>Adventurers agree to suf- tain Propor- tional Shares of the Charge.</p>	<p>venturers with him in the said Work, ac- cording to the several Proportions following; that is to say, That the whole Proportion of Land to be allotted and assured in the Recom- pence of the said Work, shall be divided into twenty whole Shares, of which Shares the said Earl of <i>Bedford</i> doth agree to adventure for two whole Shares, <i>Oliver</i> Earl of <i>Bullingbrooke</i> for one whole Share; <i>Edward</i> Lord <i>Gorges</i> for one whole Share; <i>Sir Robert Heath</i> for one whole Share; <i>Sir Miles Sandys</i> for two whole Shares; <i>Sir William Russell</i> for two whole Shares; <i>Sir Robert Beville</i> for one whole Share; <i>Sir Thomas Tyringham</i> for two whole Shares; <i>Sir Philibert Vernatt</i> for one whole Share; <i>Doctor Sames</i> for one whole Share; <i>Anthony Hamond</i> for two whole Shares; <i>Samuel Spalding</i> for one whole Share; <i>An- drews Burrell</i> for one whole Share; and <i>Sir Robert Lovatt</i> for one whole Share: Now it is severally covenanted, condescended and agreed upon, by and between the said Parties to these Presents; And the said Earl of <i>Bed- ford</i>, Earl of <i>Bullingbrooke</i>, <i>Edward</i> Lord <i>Gorges</i>, <i>Sir Robert Heath</i>, <i>Sir Miles Sandys</i>, <i>Sir Wil-</i></p>
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these Presents, That they the said Earl of *Bedford*, Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringbam*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and Sir *Robert Lovatt*, and every of them, their and every of their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, shall and will bear and sustain the Charge of the said Work, in such several Proportions and in such Manner, as in and by these Presents it is expressed. And whereas, by the true Intent and Meaning of the said Act and Law of Sewers, the Part and Portion of the said Earl of *Bedford* is to be allotted and set out unto himself, his Heirs and Assigns, in Recompence for the said Work, as by the said Act and Law it doth more fully appear : Now he the said Earl of *Bedford*, for the Consideration aforesaid, that is to say, That they the said Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringbam*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and Sir *Robert Lovatt*, and their Assigns, are to bear and sustain their proportionable Parts of the Charge of the said Work, Undertaking together with the said Earl of *Bedford*, in such Sort as is in and by these Presents expressed, and shall pay and disburse such Monies as shall be necessary and required for the said Work, in such Proportions, as herein is expressed, doth by these Presents

In Consideration whereof the Earl of *Bedford* agrees that said Adventurers shall be his Assigns of the Recompence in just Proportions, according to each Man's Adventure.

Presents for himself, his Heirs and Assigns, grant unto them the said Earl of *Bullingbrook*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, *Sir Robert Heath*, *Sir Miles Sandys*, *Sir William Russell*, *Sir Robert Bevil*, *Sir Thomas Tyringham*, *Sir Philibert Vernatt*, *Doctor Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and *Sir Robert Lovatt*, and doth hereby also declare, That they the said Earl of *Bullingbrook*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, *Sir Robert Heath*, *Sir Miles Sandys*, *Sir William Russell*, *Sir Robert Bevil*, *Sir Thomas Tyringham*, *Sir Philibert Vernatt*, *Doctor Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and *Sir Robert Lovatt*, are and shall be the Assigns of him the said Earl of *Bedford*, to whom and to whose Heirs and Assigns, as far forth as to the said Earl of *Bedford* himself and his Heirs, according to their several Proportions afore-said, all the Lands, Tenements, Fishings, and other Hereditaments and Profits, which by the said Law and Act of Sewers are appointed, or mentioned to come unto him the said Earl, in Recompence of the said Work of Draining, shall be indifferently assigned and

Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringbam*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and Sir *Robert Lovatt*, or their Heirs or Assigns, as by the Intent of the said Law and Act of Sewers, the proportionable Part and Portion of the said Land intended for the said Earl's Recompence, is to be assigned, conveyed and assured to the said Earl of *Bedford* and his Assigns; That then and so often all such Lands from Time to Time, and at all Times, shall be justly and indifferently assigned, conveyed and assured to the said Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringbam*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, Sir *Robert Lovatt*, and their Heirs and Assigns, according to their several Adventures as aforesaid. And that they the said Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringbam*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and Sir *Robert Lovatt*, and their Heirs and Assigns, shall be equal Sharers herein, and in all other Profit and Benefit either in Money, Toll, Composition, or other Kind or Nature whatsoever, arising, increasing, coming, accruing, or happening by the said Work or Draining, or by Reason and in Regard of the same with him the said Earl, according to their several Proportions and

Adventurers to have proportional Share of all Profits, and same Remedy against Commissioners that the Earl himself might have.

Shares

Adventurers
or every
share to ex-
tend 500 l. or
more if neces-
sary on Notice
in Writing
from two or
more of the
Adventurers.

Shares of Money in the said Adventure as
aforesaid; and shall have all such Remedy and
Advantage to compel the said Commissioners
to convey and assure the said Lands to them
according to their said Shares, as the said Earl
himself should or might have, and shall have
and enjoy all Profit, Commodities, Privileges,
and Benefits granted, or to be granted, to the
said Earl of *Bedford*, as Undertaker of the said
Work of Draining, or to any Corporation to
be erected or made according to the said
Law, to them and every of them, their Heirs
and Assigns, severally and respectively. And
it is also covenanted, condescended, and fully
agreed on, by and between the said Parties to
these Presents; and they the said Earl of *Bul-
lingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, *Sir Robert
Heath*, *Sir Miles Sandys*, *Sir William Russell*,
Sir Robert Bevill, *Sir Thomas Tyringham*, *Sir
Philibert Vernatt*, *Doctor Sames*, *Anthony Ha-
mond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, *Sir
Robert Lovatt*, and every of them severally
and respectively for himself and themselves,
his and their several and respective Heirs,
Executors, Administrators and Assigns, do

Heirs, shall and will disburse and expend for one whole Share the Sum of five Hundred Pounds of lawful Money of *England*. And if the said Sum of five Hundred Pounds for every whole Share shall not be thought sufficient, then so much more Money over and above the said Sum of five Hundred Pounds, as shall be requisite for the Beginning of the first Work, and so from Time to Time such other Sum and Sums of lawful Money of *England*, as shall be declared to be needful and expedient for the said Work by the greater Number of them, or of their Assigns, according to their several Proportions and Shares as aforesaid. Notice in Writing to be left at their Houses, under the Hands of any two or more of the Adventurers. **And** further it is mutually covenanted, condescended, concluded and agreed upon, by and between the Parties to these Presents, That each of them, the said Earl of *Bedford*, Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward* Lord *Gorges*, Sir *Robert* *Heath*, Sir *Miles* *Sandys*, Sir *William* *Russell*, Sir *Robert* *Bevill*, Sir *Thomas* *Tyringham*, Sir *Philibert* *Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Antony* *Hamond*, *Samuel* *Spalding*, *Andrews* *Burrell*, and Sir *Robert* *Lovatt*, shall and may, at his and their free Will and Pleasure, assign, set over, and convey his or their Adventure and Share, in or concerning the Premises, or such Parts and Proportions of the same, as shall be allotted and allowed unto him or them, or any Part thereof; so as each of his and their Assigns respectively, shall and do perform and pay what they and every

Adventurers
may assign
their Shares.

every of them, the said Earl of *Bedford*, Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Doctor *Sames*, *Anthony Hamond*, *Samuel Spalding*, *Andrews Burrell*, and Sir *Robert Lovatt*, have undertaken and by these Presents have bound themselves to perform and pay. And likewise it is agreed, that it shall and may be lawful to and for every such Assignee and Assignees, and for their Assigns, from Time to Time to assign, grant, set over and convey, his and their Adventure and Share so assigned, or such Part and Portion of the Premises as aforesaid. And also it is mutually covenanted, granted, concluded, condescended, and fully agreed upon, by and between the said Parties to these Presents, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, that if it shall happen any one of them, the said Earl of *Bedford*, Earl of *Bullingbrooke*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, Sir *Robert Heath*, Sir *Miles Sandys*, Sir *William Russell*, Sir *Robert Bevill*, Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Sir *Philibert*

If Adventurers fail their Payments after ten Days warning, to be excluded all Benefit.

to and for the rest of the said Parties or their Assigns, to supply and make up the same, or to admit some other Person or Persons, in his or their Room or Rooms who shall or do fail as aforesaid, if they shall so think fit; And that such Party as aforesaid, by himself or his Assigns failing, shall be wholly excluded from taking any Benefit of the Premises as aforesaid; and shall lose and for ever be debarred from having or demanding all or any such Sum or Sums of Money, as by any such Person or Persons shall have formerly been paid or disbursed for and towards the said Work. **And** if it shall happen any of the Parties to these Presents to die, that then the Executors, Administrators or Assigns of him or them so dying respectively, shall have the same Benefit, Profit and Interest, of or in the Share, Adventure or Proportion, belonging to the Party or Parties so deceasing; as the Party or Parties so deceasing shall have, or might have had to all Intents and Purposes: Such Executors, Administrators and Assigns, paying and performing such Payments, Covenants and Agreements in every Respect, as the Party or Parties so deceasing should or ought to do. **And** it is lastly, punctually covenanted, granted and agreed, by and between all the said Parties to these Presents, that they, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, shall at any Time hereafter do, make suffer and execute every Act, Conveyance and Assurance, for the settling, conveying and assuring severally any such

D Quantity,

Quantity, Share or Proportion of Land, or other Profit, to all or any the Parties to these Presents, their Executors, Administrators or Assigns respectively, requiring the same; As by the true Meaning of these Presents, doth or shall belong unto them, or as is hereby intended unto them by such Manner of Conveyance and Assurance, or by such other Manner as shall be reasonably devised or required. In witness whereof the Parties to these present Indentures have interchangeably set to their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year first above-written.

Francis Bedford, (LS.)

Edward Gorges, (LS.)

Robert Heath, (LS.)

Miles Sandys, (LS.)

Thomas Tyringham, (LS.)

Robert Bevell, (LS.)

Philibert Vernatt, (LS.)

Anthony Hamond, (LS.)

William Sames, (LS.)

THE
CHARTER
OF
INCORPORATION,

GRANTED

To the Right Honourable FRANCIS
Earl of BEDFORD and others.

13 *March* 10 *Car.* 1,

CHAPTER
OF
INCORPORATION

GRANTED

to the Right Honourable Francis
Lord of Rados and others

T H E
C H A R T E R
O F
I N C O R P O R A T I O N .

CAROLUS Dei Gratia Anglie Scotie Francie et Hibernie Rex fidei Defensor &c. OMNIBUS ad quos presentes litere pervenerint Salutem CUM ad Sessionem de Les Sewers apud Lynne Regis in Comitatu nostro Norf. decimo tercio die Januarii Anno Regni nostri Anglie et sexto concernen' derivaco'em Paludum et locor' Palustriu' in Comitatu nostris Northton' Norf' Suff' Lincoln' Cantabr' Huntington Insul' de Ely infra limites Commissionis nostre tent' in presentia predilecti et fidelis Consanguinei nostri Francisci Comititis Bedd' et coram Roberto Heath Milite ad tunc Attornato nostro generali Milone Sandes Milite et Baronetto et divers' aliis ad numerum quadragint' unius Commissionar' de les Sewers tunc et ibidem assemblat' autoritat' Commissionis nostre de les Sewers eis et aliis direct' multa bona et Salubria Act' Ordinaco'es et Decret'

per eosdem Commissionar' nostros pro et concernen' ear'dem Palud' et locor' Palustriu' derivaco'em fact' fuerunt.

CUMQUE tam Commissionar' nostri predict' quam populus ibidem quos predict' opus derivaco'is ear'dem terrar' demersar' concernebat humiliter a prefat' Comite Bedd' efflagitabant quod opus hoc ingens et celebre tam populi eor'dem Comitatus quam ipsius Comitatus commodum tantopere spectar' ipsemet Comes assumere dignaretur Quibus quidem votis ac desideriis prefat' Comes annuens predict' opus suscipere assenciebatur Ac superinde inactitatum ordinatum adjudicatum et decret' fuit per dictos Commissionar' quod pro recompensatione ingen' labor' et dispendii predicti' Comitatus Bedd' in opere predicto peragend' ipse haberet Nonaginta et quinque mille Acras earundem terrar' de separat' speciebus qualitar' et natur' ear'dem per sex eor'dem Commissionar' indifferenter sibi appunctuand' et designand'.

CUMQUE ad intenco'em quod tam predict' Comes predict' opus magis confidenter suscipere et perficere ac easdem Nonagint' et

seu per aliquam aliam legem sive Decret' de
 Sewers vendicare poterimus relaxaremus ac
 dict' Act' sive Decret' sua approbare et con-
 firmare dignaremur Necnon Regal' manu
 nostra eadem signand' approbac'oem et assen-
 sum Regium nostrum declaremus et abinde
 Custodi Sigilli nostri magni Anglie ut debita
 legis forma tam per Decret' Cur' nostr' Can-
 cellar' confirmaretur recommendare vellemus
 Quodque eadem Act' et Decret' Dominis et
 aliis de privato Consilio nostro quod ut res
 imperii imposter' non immutand' seu impug-
 nand' approbatione eor' in ea parte obrenta
 Quodque ad prox' Parliament' imposter' convo-
 cand' et Billa seu Petico'e duobus domibus ejus-
 dem Preferend' et eadem Act' et Decret' adtunc
 ut lex assentat' et peract' Nos pro plena et
 final' Confirmatione ejusdem Regalem assen-
 sum nostrum eidem concedere dignaremur
 Quodque nos pro hiis favoribus nostris Regiis
 indigen' populo nostro Comitatus istor' qui
 auxilium et relevamen in premissis accipere non
 potuit nisi manu n'ra Regali lucem et vitam
 istis Act' et Decret' conferend' duodecim mille
 Acras de predict' Nonagint' et quinque Mille
 Acris nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris
 assurand' et per nos imperpetuum de et ab omni
 jure titulo aut interest' communie aut aliter
 per predict' Comitem aut aliquam aliam perso-
 nam sive personas quascunque clamand' accipere
 dignaremur, eisdem duodecim Mille Acris in
 una aut duabus proportionibus de predict'
 terris demersis modo parcell' Maner' de Whi-
 tlesey aut alior' Manerior' eidem adjacen' di-
 mensurand' et designand' Quas quidem duode-

cim Mille Acras predict' Comes et populus
 noster per assensum suum unanimum et grati
 cor' animi indit'iu' pro gracia nostra Regali
 opus predict' ut prefertur favore nostro Regio
 et assensu recommendando et perficiendo nobis
 humilime obtulerunt Quam quidem voluntar'
 et liberam oblationem cor'dem Comit'is et po-
 puli nostri nos gratiose accipimus ac accepta-
 mus per presentes.

CUMQUE nos predict' opus ingens ar-
 duu' et laude-dignum magnopere faventes
 eadem Act' et Decret' predict' Regali nostro
 assensu manu nostra testat' approbari fecimus
 Nosque etiam pro meliori gubernaco'e progress'
 et perimpleco'e operis predict' Comit'em et
 nonnullos alios de subdit' nostris in Corpus
 Politicum per nomen Gubernator' Ballivor' et
 Coi'tat' Societat' Conservator' Paludum in
 Cantabr. Hunt' Northton' Lincoln' Norf' et
 Suff' et Insul' Ely per literas nostras Paten-
 tes eisdem in hac parte nuper concess' fece-
 rimus constituerimus et creaverimus Eosdemque
 subditos nostros divers' Donis Concessionibus
 libertat' Jur' et Immunitat' investiri fecerimus
 Cumque etiam in eisdem literis nostris Paten-

Mille Acras in predict' Act' ordinac'one et Decret' Commissionar' nostror' predict' no'iat' ac predict' duodecim Mille Acr' in predict' L'ris nostris Paten' menc'onat' intendebantur esse una et eadem duodecim Mille Acr' terr' et non al' neque diversf.

SCIATIS igitur quod nos Dubitac'oes omnes et questiones que imposter' oriri poterint in hac parte penitus tollere volentes Necnon nos duodecim Mille Acr' in Act' et Decret' predict' express' et nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concess' seu concedi menc'onat' plenar' content' esse per presentes Declarantes de gratia nostra speciali ac ex Certa scientia et mero motu nostris pardonavimus remisimus relaxavimus et quiet' clamavimus Ac per presentes pro nobis Heredibus et Successoribus nostris pardonamus remittimus relaxamus et quiete clamamus prefat' Gubernator' Ballivis' et Common'itati Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis predict' duodecim Mille Acras in eisdem literis nostris Paten' ut prefertur promiss' seu promitti menc'onat' et quamlibet inde parcell' ac totum jus titul' clam' interess' et demand' nostra quecunque de in et ad easdem duodecim Mille Acras aut aliqua inde parcell' virtute seu colore ear'dem literar' nostrar' Patent' prerecitat' Necnon omnes et singul' Promissiones aut pretext' Pomission' de et concernen' predict' duodecim Mille Acr' in eisdem literis nostris Patentibus content' et express' aut eadem aliquialiter tangen' Salvis tamen semper et nobis hered' et Successoribus nostris omnibus reservat' predict' duodecim Mille Acr' in predict' Act' Ordinacon'

nacon' et Decret' Commissionar' nostror' de
le Sewers predict' express' ac nobis heredi-
bus et Successoribus nostris concess' vel men-
conat' esse concess.

CUMQUE etiam predicti Gubernator Bal-
livi et Common'itas Societatis predict' nobis
humillime supplicaver' quod nos sursumred-
ditionem ear'dem literar' nostrar' Patentiu'
Premenc'onat' ab eisdem accipere vellemus ea
tamen intenc'oe quod nos alias literas nostras
Patentes cum eisdem ac aliquibus aliis Donis
potestat' Privileg' et Immunitatibus ad Pro-
motionem operis predict' conducent' eis con-
cedere dignaremur Quam quidem sursumred-
ditionem accepimus et acceptamus per pre-
sentes.

CUMQUE pefat' Predilectus et fidelis
Consanguineus noster Franciscus Comes Bedd'
ac quidam alii dilecti Subditi nostri sui Con-
sortes multor' desideriiis annuentes predicta
Stagna Palustria et loca Paludosa in Predictis
Comitatibus nostris Cantabr' Hunt' Northton'
Lincoln' Suff' et Norf' et in Insula Ely tres-
cent' et sexagint Millia Acr' terrar' aut eo circiter
continencia e quibus Aqua cooperi' Pisce flu-

se nuper exhibebant divina auspicante clemencia Pecor' Juvencor' leta Pascua et frequentes incolar' manso's intueri liceat Et quia tanta aquar' moles a locis illis nisi per erec'coem et confec'coem Stagnor' Ripar' aggerum fosfar' Canal' Cataractar' pontiu' et Calcetor' et operum alior' cor'que continuationem et preservationem perpetuas derivari non possit nec tueri que impensas quotidianas postulabunt ac ad perpetuam supportaco'em onerum tanto operi incumbenciu' de paludibus istis desiccandis quadraginta millia Acra' per metas dignoscend' sunt designanda unde redditus exit' et profic' ad subvenco'em onerum hujusmodi que non tam per singulos in fata sepius decedentes heredibus minoribus Feminis et aliis suor' regimin' non sufficientibus relictis quam si cor' erogacio et Premissor' continuatio quor'dam viror' discret' Politice Corporat' Succession' perpetuam habent' curæ incumberet Sciatis igitur quod nos ad Premissa Considerationem habentes Nec non progress' e perimplecon' operis predicti omnibus modis quibus poterimus succurrere et subvenire volentes ac predictor' Gubernator' Ballivor' et Common'itatis Societat' Predom' Premissis Peric'oi graciose annuentes de gratia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris volumus quod de cetero imperpetuum sit et erit una Societas de Conservatoribus Paludum infra Comitatus predicti in unum Corpus corporat' et Politicum redact' Ac præfat' Franciscum Comitem Bedd' et subscriptos sibi Oliverum Comitem de Bullingbrooke Henricum Dominum Maltrevers Edwardum

Edwardum Dominum Gorge Franciscum
Crane Militem prenobil' Ordinis Garteri
Cancellar' Milonem Sandis Militem et Baro-
net' Thomam Tyrringham Militem Robertum
Lovet Militem Filbertum Verniatt Militem
Milonem Sandis Militem Will'um Sams le-
gum Doctorem Oliverum St. John Armiga-
rum Anthonium Hamond Armigenum et
Samuelem Spalding Generosum et al' in forma
subscript' eligend' et Successores suos in Socie-
tat' predict' ac in unum Corpus corporat' et
Politicum imperpetuum duratur' in re facto et
nomine per nomen Gubernator' Ballivor' et
Communitat' Societat' Conservator' Paludum
in Com' Cantabr' Hunt' Northton' Lincoln'
Norf' et Suff' et Insula Ely pro nobis Here-
dibus et Successoribus nostris facimus crea-
mus et constituimus ac per nomen predict'
nuncupari volumus per presentes Et quod de
ipsis unus sit Gubernator alter Deputatus Gu-
bernator duo Ballivi et ceteri de Commo-
n'itat' Societat' predict' Et quod ipsi et alii in
forma sequen' in Societat' illam eligend' et ad-
mittend' et Successores sui per idem nomen ha-
beant Successionem perpetuam Quodam in f. et

fendere et defendi valeant et possint in quibuscunque Curiis et locis et coram quibuscunque Judicibus Justiciar' vel al' Officiar' et Ministris nostris Hered' et Successor' nostror' in omnimod' Acc'oib' Pl'itis querelis et demand' modo et forma prout aliquis ligeus noster habilis et in lege capax aut aliquod aliud Corpus corporat' seu Politicum quodcunque valeat et possit.

VOLUMUS ETIAM et per presentes pro nobis heredib' et Successoribus nostris concedimus eisdem Gubernator' Ballivis et Communitat' Societat' predict' Quod predict' Franciscus Comes Bedd' sit primus et modernus Gubernator' Societat' predict' et predict' Milo Sandis Miles et Baronett' sit primus Deputat' Gubernator et pred' Thomas Tiringham Miles et Milo Sandis Miles sint et erint primi et moderni Ballivi Societat' predict' Et predictus Oliverus Comes Bullingbrooke Henricus Dominus Maltrevers Edwardus Dominus Gorge Franciscus Crane Miles Robertus Lovet Philbert Vernatt Miles Will'us Samms Oliverus St. John Anthonius Hamond et Samuel Spalding sint et erint primi et moderni de Comon'itat' Societat' predict' Eundemque Franciscum Comitem Bedd' primum et modernum Gubernatorem et predict' Milonem Sandis Militem et Baronett' primum et modernum Deputat' Gubernator' et Thomam Tiringham Militem et Milonem Sandis Militem primos et modernos Ballivos et predict' Oliverum Comitem Bullingbrooke Henricum Dominum Maltrevers Edwardum Dominum Gorge Franciscum Crane Robertum Lovet Philbert'

Philbert Vernatt Will'um Samms Oliverum
 St. John Anthonium Hamond et Samuelem
 Spaldinge primos et modernos de Common'i-
 tat' Societat' predict' facimus ordinamus et
 creamus per presentes Quem Gubernatorem
 in Officio suo continuari volumus usque in
 festo Sancti Michaelis Archangeli quod erit
 in Anno Domini Millesimo sexcentesimo tri-
 cesimo quinto et abinde quousque ipse vel
 alius in locum Gubernator' Societat' illius eli-
 gatur Ac predict' Deputat' Gubernator' in Of-
 ficio illo continuari volumus usque in eodem
 festo et abinde quousque ipse vel alius in lo-
 cum illum eligatur quodque uterque dictor'
 Ballivor' in dictis Officiis suis respective conti-
 nuabunt usque in eodem festo et abinde quo-
 usque ipsi vel alii in loco et Offic' Ballivor' So-
 cietat' predict' elegantur quodque quilibet de
 Common'itat' Societat' predict' de dicta Com-
 mon'itat' respective continuabunt ad terminum
 vite sue nisi ex justa causa quispiam de pre-
 dict' Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator' Bal-
 livis vel Common'itate a loco suo amoveatur
 Quodque iidem Gubernator' Ballivi et Co-

loco convenien' infra Insul' Elien' per prefat' Gubernator' Ballivos et Comon'itat' Societat' predict' et successores suos designand' quandam Domum Consilii et Aulam communem habere et ibidem in vicesimo nono die Septembris singulis Annis et sepius rerum necessitate exigente se ipsos congregare et convenire et cum libero consensu prefat' Gubernator' Ballivor' Common'itat' Societat' predict' vel majoris partis eor'dem interesse volentium nominare et eligere unum discret' et idoneum virum de Deputat' Gubernator' Ballivis aut Common'itat' ejusdem Societat' fore Gubernator' dicte Societat' qui sic elect' in eodem Officio stabit et continuabit usque in vicesimo nono die Septembris tunc prox' sequen' et abinde quousque ipse vel alius ejus loco eligatur et preficiatur nisi interim ex justa causa a loco illo debite amoveatur Acceciam nominare et eligere de se ipsis unum virum probum et discret' fore Deputat' Gubernator' Societatis predict' et duos alios fore Ballivos Societatis predictae qui sic electi in eisdem Officiis singuli eor' stabunt et continuabunt usque in vicesimo nono die Septembris tum prox' sequen' et abinde quousque ipsi vel eor' aliquis aut alii eor'dem locis respective eligantur et preficiantur nisi interim ex justa causa a locis suis debite amoveantur vel amoveatur aliquis et alios tenentes terrar' quingent' Acr' palud' predict' ad minus in feod' et hereditate habentes pro tempore existen' in Common'itat' ejusdem Societat' quos voluerint admittere eligere et preficere et alios loco eor' alicujus in fata decedentis seu amoti eligere substituere
et

et perficere quoties necessar' eis videbitur Volu-
 mus tamen Gubernator' et Deputat' Guber-
 nator' et quemlibet Ballivor' et quemlibet de
 Common'itat' Societatis predictæ per majorem
 partem Gubernator' Deputat' et Ballivor' et
 Common'itat' Societat' predict' ut predictum
 est debite premonitor' interesse volencium justa
 de causa amobilem et amovend' Et si conti-
 gerit Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator' vel Bal-
 livos vel quemquam de Common'itate Societat'
 predictæ obire vel amovere per quod locus vel
 Officiu' suum vac' deveniet tunc licebit super-
 viven' Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator' Bal-
 livis et Common'itat' Societat' predictæ seipsos
 similiter congregare et convenire et ibidem ali-
 am personam vel personas fore Gubernator'
 Deputat' Gubernator' Ballivos et de Commo-
 n'itat' Societat' predict' in forma predict' loco
 et vice illor' Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator'
 Ballivor' vel alicujus de Common'itate vel eor'
 aliquor' vel alicujus seu defunct' aut amot'
 nominare et aligere in Offic' et loc' ill' con-
 tinuand' usque in vicesimo nono die. Septem-
 bris tunc prox' sequen' et abinde quousque
 ipse vel alius de novo eligatur continuand'

AC INSUPER volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus pifat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis quod licebit Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' per Gubernator' Societat' illius vel Deputat' Gubernator' Societat' predict' pro tempore existen' convocat' aut major' part' eor' interesse volentium dummodo sex eor' ad minus quor' unus eor' sit Gubernator vel Deputat' Gubernator sint present' de tempore in tempus pro bono regimine supporta'coe et Publico commodo Societatis predictae facere ordinare stabilire et promulgare Statu' leges et Ordina'coes quascunque se ipsos et opera sua in Paludibus illis concernen' ac novis emergentibus malis nova remedia si necesse fuerit statuere et apponere et ea executioni debite mandare Ita tamen quod eadem statu' leges Ordina'coes et Decret' non sint contrar' statut' et legibus hujus Regni nostri Anglie.

ET ULTERIUS volumus ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris ordinamus et constituimus quod pifat' Comes Bedd' superius in presentibus n'oiat' fore Gubernator' Societat' predict' et quilibet al' de tempore in tempus in Offic' ill' eligend' antequam ad exercitiu' Offic' Gubernator' Societat' predict' admittatur vel in eodem Offic' se intromittat Sacramentum corporal' super sanct' Dei Evangelia ad Offic' ill' bene et fideliter in omnibus et per omnia Offic' ill' tangen' exequend' coram predict' Deputat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Societat' predict' aut tribus vel

E

Pluribus

Pluribus eor' quor' Deputat' Gubernator' aut unus Ballivor' sit unus prestabit Quibus quidem Deputat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Societat' et quibuscumque tal' tribus vel pluribus eor' tal' Sacrament' ut prefertur prefat' Comiti Bedd' et cuilibet al' de tempore in tempus in Offic' ill' eligend' administrand' et de ipso suscipiend' plenam potestatem et auctoritatem damus et concedimus per presentes.

VOLUMUS ETIAM ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris ordinamus et constituimus quod prefat' Milo Sandis Miles et Baronett' Thomas Tyringham Miles et Milo Sandis Miles et quilibet al' in Offic' Deputat' Gubernator' seu Ballivor' Societat' predict' antequam ad exercit' Offic' Deputat' Gubernator' vel Ball' admittantur vel in eisdem Offic' se intromittant Sacrament' corporal' super sanct' Dei Evangel' ad Offic' ill' bene et fideliter in omnibus et per omnia Offic' ill' tangen' exequend' coram Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' vel aliquibus duobus vel plur' eor' quibus tal'

Sacrament' ut prefertur prefat' Miloni Sandis Militi et Baronett' Thoma Tyringham et

cor'que minister' et servien' prestand' ordinare
 Ac eisdem Gubernator' Deputat' Gubernator'
 et Ballivis et Successoribus suis licenciam simili-
 ter et potestatem damus et concedimus quod
 bene liceat et licebit Gubernator' Deputat'
 Gubernator' et Ballivis de singulis de Societat'
 predict' Sacrament' in forma predict' prestand'
 suscipere Et hoc absque aliqua Commissione
 seu ulterior' Warrant' a nobis hered' et Suc-
 cessoribus nostris in ea parte procurand' aut
 obtinend.

AC DE uberiori gracia nostra speciali ac
 ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris dedi-
 mus et concessimus predict' Gubernator' Balli-
 vis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' et Suc-
 cessoribus suis conservac'oem omnium Aquar'
 et Ripar' infra Palud' et loca Palustria predict'
 tam existen' quam deinceps futur' Ac pro no-
 bis heredibus et Successoribus nostris volumus
 ac eisdem Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'ni-
 tat' Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis con-
 cedimus quod ipsi et Successores sui sint imper-
 petuum Conservatores Aquar' et Ripar' pre-
 dict' Ac ipsos et Successores suos Aquar' et
 Ripar' predict' ad Retia Kedellos et omnia al'
 Engina Stagna et molendin' et al' nocument'
 in Aquis et Ripar' predict' posita seu im-
 poster' ponend' contra leges et consuetud'
 Regni nostri Anglie per se vel per ministros
 suos arrestand' capiend' et comburend' et ad
 singul' in Aquis et Ripar' predict' scrutand'
 faciend' et exequend' que aliqui Conservator'
 alicujus Aque vel Ripar' scrutar' facer' vel exe-
 qui valeant, facimus ordinamus et constitui-
 mus per presentes Ac pro nobis hered' et suc-

cessoribus volumus ac per presentes ulterius concedimus eisdem Gubernator⁹ Ballivis et Commo⁹nitat⁹ et Successoribus suis ac singul⁹ Gubernator⁹ ac Deputat⁹ Gubernator⁹ et Ballivis Societat⁹ predict⁹ pro tempore existen⁹,

QUOD ipsi et duo vel plures eor⁹ habeant et de cetero imperpetuum potestatem inquirend⁹ per Sacramentum probor⁹ et legalium hominum Comitatur⁹ ill⁹ et aliis viis et modis quibus convenit de omnibus trangress⁹ et delict⁹ contra formam Statut⁹ vel contra legem et consuetud⁹ Regni nostri Anglie in Aquis et Ripar⁹ predict⁹ factis commiss⁹ vel perpetrat⁹ seu fiend⁹ committend⁹ vel perpetrand⁹ eaque omnia et singul⁹ audiend⁹ terminand⁹ et eos qui inde convict⁹ fuerint puniend⁹ per fines amerciament⁹ et al⁹ penas secundum leges et consuetud⁹ Regni nostri Anglie.

CONCESSIMUS etiam predict⁹ Gubernator⁹ Ballivis et Societat⁹ et Successoribus suis omnimodas penas fines amerciament⁹ bona et catalla propter aliqua delict⁹ in Aquis et Ripar⁹ predict⁹ contra formam statut⁹ vel contra leg⁹ vel consuetud⁹ Regni nostri Anglie forisfact⁹

cessor' nostror' mittend' vel retornand' et absque aliqua impeticoe nostr' hered' vel successor' nostror' aut al' ministror' quor'cunque et in commodum et easiamen' hominum in partibus predict' habitan' Et ut alii ad incolend' partes ill' melius adducantur ex feriar' et mercat' Vicinitate.

ULTERIUS VOLUMUS ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris concedimus predict' Comiti Bedd' Domino Maner' de Thorney heredibus et assignatis suis quod ipsi habeant unum Mercat' in die Jovis qualibet septimana infra predict' Maner' de Thorney Necnon duas ferias annuatim imperpetuum apud Thorney predict' una eor' in primo die Maii incipien' et per tot' illum diem et duos dies prox' eundem diem sequen' annuatim continuand' et duratur' ac altera ear'dem fer' ibidem primo die Septembris incipien' et per tot' ill' diem et duos dies eundem diem prox' sequen' continuand' et duratur' tenend' unacum Cur' ped' Pulverizat' ibidem tempore dict' mercat' et fer' sive Nundin' tenend' unacum rac'onabil' Tolnet' Stallag' et Piccag' pro feldis seu rebus venalibus in feriis vel mercat' predict' vend' exposu' ac cum omnibus libertatibus et liber' consuetud' fin' amerciamen' ac omnibus al' profic' commoditat' et emolument' quibuscunque ad hujusmodi mercat' et ferias sive Nundin' et Cur' Ped' pulverizat' pertinen' Ita tamen quod predict' Mercat' et fer' sive Nundin' aut eor' alter non sint vel sit ad nocumentum al' Vicin' Mercat' Nundin' sive Fer'.

ET ULTERIUS de uberiori gracia nostra certa sciencia et mero motu nostris volumus et per presentes pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris concedimus pifat' Miloni Sandis Militi et Baronetto D'no Maner' de Stretham heredibus et assignat' suis quod ipsi habeant unum Mercat' in die Jovis qualibet septimanam infra Manerium de Stretham in Insula Elien' Necnon duas ferias annuatim imperpetuum apud Stretham predict' una ear' in Festo sancti Marci incipien' et per tot' ill' diem et duos dies prox' sequen' eundem festum annuatim continuand' et duratur' alter' ear'dem fest' ibidem in festo sancti Mathei Apostoli incipien' et per tot' ill' diem et duos dies eund' Fest' prox' sequen' continuand' et duratur' tenend' unacum Cur' Ped' Pulverizat' ibidem tempore dict' mercat' ac fer' sive nundin' tenend' unacum rac'onabil' Tolnet' Stallag' et Piccag' pro feldis seu rebus venal' in feriis et mercat' predict' vendic'oi exposir' Ac cum omnibus libertat' et liberis consuetud' fin' amerciament' ac omnibus al' profic' commoditat' et emolument' quibuscunque ad hujusmodi mercat'

dem tempore dict' Mercat' et fer' sive Nundin' tenend' unacum rac'onabil' Tolnet' Stal-lag' Piccag' pro seldis seu rebus venal' in fer' vel Mercat' predict' vendic'on' exposu' ac cum omnibus libertat' et liberis consuetud' fin' amerciamen' ac omnibus al' profic' commodi-tat' et emolument' predict' seu ad hujusmodi Mercat' et fer' sive Nundin' pertinen' Ita tamen quod predict' Mercat' et fer' et eor' alter respective non sint vel sit ad nocu-ment' al' vicinor' Mercat' fer' sive Nundin'; **NON OBSTANTE** quod breve nos-trum de ad quod dampnum aut aliquod aliud breve a Cancellar' nostra non emanavit ad inquirend' de feriis sive Nundin' et Mer-cat' predict' aut eor' aliquo ante consec'coem presencium.

VOLUMUS INSUPER ac per presentes pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris concedimus prefat' Gubernator' et Commo'ni-tat' Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis et singul' eor' tam present' quam futur' licenciam et facultatem quod ipsi infra planiciem Palud' predict' in aliquibus locis congruis quovis vo-luerint Eccles' et Capell' cum Cancell' et Campanil' de novo erigere edificare et fundare et quasdam perticul' terr' suar' Eccles' sive Capell' ill' adjacen' ad Cemeter' inde faciend' includere. Ac Eccles' vel Capell' ill' sic con-struct' et fundat' Baptisterio et al' ad Sacra-ment' et alior' divinor' administracon' necessar' instruere et ornare valeant et possint dictasque Ecclesias et Cemeter' per Ordinari' illius loci ubi construct' fuerint consecrari et juxta leges

Ecclesiasticas Regni nostri Anglie dedicati
causare Ac quod Gubernator Ballivi et Com-
mo'nitas Socierat' predict' et Successores sui et
singul' eor' Ecclesias vel Capell' ill' fundant' Post
fundacon' ill' sint imperpetuum Patroni Eccles'
et Capell' antedict' habeantque jus Patronat'
cujuslibet ear' et presentandi ad easdem in
qualibet vacacon' personam idoneam per Or-
dinar' loci illius Canonice admittend' et insti-
tuend' et debite induci mandand'.

VOLUMUS ETIAM Ac per presentes
pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris
concedimus singul' Episcopis Ordinar' et aliis
tam presentibus quam futur' quor' in hac parte
interest quod ipsi et eor' singul' Eccles' sive
Capell' predict' cum construct' fuerint ac Ce-
meter' ear' consecrare et in honorem divinum
dedicare valeant et possint Et quod Eccles' sive
Capell' ill' postquam fuerint consecrat' in-
quilinis et Inhabitantibus ad divina celebrand' Sa-
crament' Cene Domini administrand' et susci-
piend' nuptias celebrand' parvul' baptizand'
mortuos sepeliend' et ad omnia al' que ad Ec-
cles' vel Capell' et Cemeter' pertinent defer-
vant Ac quod Rectores aliquis vel aliquar'

DAMUS ETIAM tenore prefencium prefat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis et singul' eor' tam presentibus quam futur' licenciam et facultatem quod ipsi aliquas terras infra Plani-
ciem Palud' predict' vel al' cum soluc'oe decimar' fruct' et al' ibidem renovan' Prout eis melius videbitur expedire eisdem Rectoribus onerare et quamlibet Eccles' five Capell' predict' et Rectores ejusdem et Successores suos cum decimis tam majoribus quam minoribus real' et personal' mixt' de terris predict' crescen' et renovan' Et cum tal' Eccles' five Capell' et cum decimar' oblac'on' et proventibus ad Eccles' ill' pertinen' et Mansionibus terr' et tenement' suis propriis dotare et ea Rectori alicujus tal' Eccles' five Capell' pro tempore existen' et Successoribus suis in feod' Possidend' imperpetuum dare et concedere valeant et possint et cuilibet tal' Rectori et Successoribus suis respective ea omnia acquirend' et tenend' licenciam similiter damus et concedimus per presentes Statut' de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuum non ponead' non obitan' salvo jure Rector' et Vicar' cujuslibet Ecclesie Matricis in cujus Paroch' Ecclesie vel Capell' ill' de novo fundat' fuerint. Et quia structur' et perpetua manuten'cio Pontium factar' et preservac'o multor' Cataractor' Rivor' alior'que locor' Aquas et eor' Ripas obducendor' infra Palud' predict' imposter' edificand' erigend' vel faciend' pro commodo et utilitate Reipublice immensas exigerunt denar' sum' ;

VOLUMUS

VOLUMUS et concedimus prefat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Como'nitat' Societat' predict' et Successoribus suis per presentes quod bene liceat et licebit eis capere habere et recipere sibi et Successoribus suis rac'onabil' Tolnet' sequen' pro omnibus averiis et carucis super Pontes ill' de novo erect' vel per Gubernator' Ballivos et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' et Successores suos erigend' transeuntibus, videlicet pro qualibet Caruca onerat' quatuor denar' et non onerat' duos denar' pro quolibet Equo sive Equa onerat' duos denar' et si non onerat' un' denar' pro viginei bidentibus Vitul' sive Porcis duos denar' et sic pro rata pro quolibet viginti Bobus sive Vaccis quatuor denar' et sic pro rata Et pro qualibet Cimba subtus predict' Pont' per Seweras vel loca predicta de novo fact' et manutent' per predict' Gubernator' Ballivos et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' transeun' et navigan' non exceden' quatuor tunellos quatuor denar' et pro qualibet major' Cimba octo Denar' pro qualibet Cimba per Cataractas de novo fact' et manutent' ut predictum est non continen' quatuor tunellos qua-

VOLUMUS quod omnia scripta et evidentia per quas aliqua pars dictae terrae aliquantulum conveiat et assurat fuerit ab uno ad alium per partes perquirentes irrotulabuntur coram Gubernatore Ballivis et Societate predicta in libro ea de causa publice conservando vel per ministros suos infra spacium trium Mensium proximo post datum dictorum scriptorum sive Evidentiarum pro rationabili denario summo Clerico vel alio Officiario pro labore suo in ea parte sustinendo solvendo.

VOLUMUS tamen quod si aliquis tenens vel Inhabitans ibidem per spacium trium Mensium ut prefertur scriptum et Evidentiarum suarum de aliqua parte Premissorum fiendi non irrotulabit seu irrotulari causabit quod tunc franchise libertatis Immunitatis et privilegii predicti in presentibus contenti minime gaudebit.

CUMQUE notorium satis est et manifestum quod opus tam arduum non sine multo labore et oneribus perficitur. Quodque parvi erit nisi continua supervisione labore expensis et Consilio haud mediocri preservatum sit ut igitur Gubernator Ballivi et Communitas Societate predicta et singuli Inhabitantes predicti sint eidem sedulo magis intendentes et auxiliantes et in Domibus locis et possessionibus suis cum illuc post tanta onera et labores causa recreatiois aut solacii se divertant absque omni metu inquietudinis molestie seu gravaminis letae et pacifice stare possint et morari.

DE

DE uberiori gracia nostra speciali concessimus pro nobis heredibus et Successoribus nostris Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' et singul' eor' et Successoribus suis Et volumus quod nullus eor' ponatur extra libertat' precinct' Palud' predict' in Affis Jurat' attinct' Recogni'con' seu Inquisi'con' aliquibus licet tangant nos heredes vel Successores nostros aut alios quoscunque Et quod nullus eor' fiat extra Palud' predict' Collector Decimar' quintar' Decimar' taxar' talagior' aut al' onerum quotar' seu imposic'on' quor'cunque nobis heredibus vel Successoribus nostris imposter' quomodolibet concedend' seu dand' neque sint vel sit Constabular' Receptor' Ballivus aut Officiar' nostr' aut hered' vel successor' nostror' extra libertat' predict' contra voluntat' suas.

VOLUMUS ETIAM ac per presentes concedimus prefat' Gubernator' Ballivis et Commo'nitat' Societat' predict' quod habeant et habebunt has literas nostras Patentes sub magno Sigillo nostro Anglie debito modo fact' et sigillat' absque fine seu feod' magno seu parvo nobis in hanape-

fact' existit aut aliquo Statut' Actu Ordinac'oe Provisione Proclamac'oe sive Restrict'oe in contrar' antehac habit' fact' edit' ordinat' sive provis' aut aliqua al' re causa vel materia quacunque in aliquo non obstan'.

IN CUJUS rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes Teste me ipso apud Westmonasterium tercio decimo die Marcii Anno Regni nostri decimo.

Per Breve de privato Sigillo.

WOLSELEY.

THE
CHAPTER
OF
INCORPORATION

Having been the author of the right of
the right of the right of the right of

CHARLES, by the Grace of
God, of *England, France* and
Ireland King, Defender of the
Faith, &c.

To all to whom these Presents
shall come greeting.

WHEREAS at a Sessions of Recital of the
Sewers, holden at *King's Lynn* *Lynn* Law.
in our County of *Norfolk*, the
13th Day of *January* in the
sixth Year of our Reign, concerning the drain-
ing of the Fens and Marshy Grounds in our
Counties of *Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk,*
Lincoln, Cambridge, Huntingdon, and the Isle
of *Ely*, lying within the Limits of our Com-
mission, in the Prefence of our dearly belo-
ved and faithful Cousin *Francis* Earl of *Bed-*
ford, and before Sir *Robert Heath*, Knight,
our then Attorney General, Sir *Miles Sandys*,
Knight and Baronet, and divers others to the
Number of forty and one, Commissioners of
Sewers then and there assembled, by Virtue
of our Commission of Sewers to them and
others directed, many good and wholesome
Acts, Ordinances and Decrees were made by
F our

our Commissioners, for and concerning the draining of the said Fens and Marshy Grounds.

And whereas as well our Commissioners aforesaid, as the People there, whom the draining the said drowned Lands did concern, humbly besought of the aforesaid Earl of *Bedford*, that he the said Earl himself would be pleased to undertake so great and famous a Work, conducive as well to the Good of the People of the said Counties as of the Earl himself; to which Prayers and Entreaties the said Earl consenting, did agree to undertake the aforesaid Work. And thereupon it was enacted, adjudged, ordained, and decreed; that for a Recompence of the great Labour and Expence of the said Earl in performing the said Work, he should have ninety five-thousand Acres of the said Land, to be indifferently allotted and set out to him, of the several Sorts and Qualities of the said Grounds, according to their several Natures and Goodness, by six of the said Commissioners. And to the Intent that as well the said Earl might with greater Confidence undertake and perform the said Work, and enjoy the said ninety-five thousand Acres

nineteenth Year of the Reign of our late most dearly beloved Father, King *James*, or by any other Law of Sewers, we might claim; and also that we would be pleased to confirm their Acts or Decrees, and, by our Royal Hand signing the same, to declare our Royal Approbation thereof, and Assent thereunto. And that we would further graciously be pleased to recommend the same to the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper of our Great Seal, that they may in due Form of Law be confirmed and ratified, by Decree of our Honourable High Court of Chancery. And that we would vouchsafe to recommend the same to the Right Honourable the Lords and others of our most Honourable Privy Council, to be by them ordered as a Matter of State, not to be altered or impeached, having received the Approbation of that Honourable Board; and that whensoever a Parliament should be called, and a Bill being then preferred to the two Houses of that High Court of Parliament, and the same being there passed as a Law, that we would be graciously pleased, for the full and final Confirmation thereof, to give our Royal Assent thereunto. And that we would be graciously pleased, for these our Royal Favours, vouchsafed to this poor distressed Part of our Country which could receive no Relief or Help, but by our Royal Hands in giving Life to their Laws, to accept of the Quantity of twelve thousand Acres, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to be assured to us, our Heirs and Successors, freed and discharged of and from all Right, Title, or Interest of Common, or otherwise to be claimed or demanded by the

said Earl, or any other Person or Persons whatsoever. The said twelve thousand Acres to be laid together in one or two entire Pieces, or Quantities, out of such of the said drowned Lands as now are Parcel of the Manor of *Whittlesea*, or other Manors thereto adjoining; which Quantity of twelve thousand Acres the said Earl and Country, by an unanimous Consent, have humbly offered unto us, as a thankful Acknowledgment of our gracious Favour, in recommending the said Work, and perfecting the same, with our Royal Favour and Assent as aforesaid; which voluntary and free Offering of the said Earl and our People we have most graciously accepted, and by these Presents do accept.

Recital of former Letters Patents.

And whereas we, highly favouring the aforesaid great, arduous, and praise-worthy Work, have declared our Approbation of the said Acts and Decrees, by our Royal Hand signing the same. And we have, for the better Government, Progress, and Completion of the aforesaid Work, by our Letters Patents lately on this Behalf granted, made, appointed, and created the said Earl, and others of

our Subjects a Body politic by the Name of

vernor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society
 aforeſaid, promiſed to grant unto us, our
 Heirs and Succeſſors, twelve thouſand Acres
 within the Level of the Fens aforeſaid, not covered
 with Water, but drained, in proper Places,
 on the View of Viewers to be appointed by
 our Treafurer of *England*, to be held free of
 all common, and other Charges and Services,
 which ſaid Twelve thouſand Acres, named in
 the aforeſaid Acts, Ordinances, and Decrees of
 our Commiſſioners aforeſaid, and the aforeſaid
 twelve thouſand Acres mentioned in our Letters
 Patents aforeſaid, are intended to be one
 and the ſame twelve thouſand Acres, and
 not others and different: Know ye therefore
 that we, willing to take away entirely all
 Doubts and Questions which may in any wiſe
 hereafter ariſe thereon, and likewiſe declaring
 by theſe Preſents that we are fully ſatiſfied with
 the twelve thouſand Acres, granted or mentioned
 to be granted to us, our Heirs and Succeſſors,
 as ſet forth in the aforeſaid Acts and Decrees,
 have, of our ſpecial Grace, from our own certain
 Knowledge and meer Motion, forgiven, remiſed,
 releaſed, and quitted Claim, and by theſe Preſents
 for us, our Heirs and Succeſſors, do forgive, remiſe,
 releaſe, and quit Claim to the aforeſaid Governor,
 Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforeſaid,
 and their Succeſſors, the aforeſaid twelve thouſand
 Acres, promiſed or mentioned to be promiſed
 in theſe our ſaid Letters Patents, and every Parcel
 thereof, and all our Right, Title, Claim, Intereſt
 and Demand whatever, of, in, and to the ſaid
 twelve thouſand Acres, or any Parcel thereof,

thereof, by Virtue or Colour of our said Letters Patents afore recited; and also all and singular Promises, or Pretences of Promise, of and concerning the aforesaid twelve thousand Acres of Land in our said Letters Patents contained and expressed, or in any wise touching the same. Saving always to ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, the aforesaid twelve thousand Acres, in the aforesaid Act, Ordinances, and Decrees of our Commissioners of Sewers afore said expressed, and to us, our Heirs and Successors granted or mentioned to be granted.

Letters Patents above recited surrendered up.

And whereas the afore said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society afore said, have humbly besought us to accept from them of the Surrender of our said Letters Patents before mentioned, but with an Intention that we would vouchsafe to grant them other Letters Patents, with the same and other Gifts, Powers, Privileges, and Immunities conducive to the promoting of the Work afore said; which Surrender we have accepted, and do accept by these Presents.

Earl of Bed-

And whereas our dearly beloved and

or thereabouts, (from which, being covered with Water, little Advantage redounds to Mankind, except from some few River Fish and Water Fowl) into Land, Meadows and Pasture, to the great Advantage as well of those Parts as of the Public, in which they have made such a Progress, that hereafter, as it was hoped, in those Places, which lately presented nothing to the Eyes of the Beholder but great Waters, and a few Reeds thinly scattered here and there, under the Divine Mercy might be seen pleasant Pastures of Cattle and Kyne, and many Houses belonging to the Inhabitants. But because such a Body of Water cannot always be drained off and kept from those Places, but by the erecting and making of Meers, Banks, Dams, Dykes, Tunnels, Sluices, Bridges, and Causeys, and other Works, and by the continuing and supporting the same, which will require a daily Expence; and to the continual Support of the Charge attending so great a Work, forty thousand Acres of those drained Fens are intended to be set out by proper Bounds, from the Rents, Issues and Profits of which the said Charge is to be born, which cannot be so well managed by Individuals, who are often dying, and who leave their Heirs Minors or Women, by no Means equal to such a Direction, as if the expending the same and the continuing the Premises was intrusted to the Care of discreet Men, in a political and corporate Succession.

But it cannot be done without Works which require great Expence. For which Purpose 40000 Acres to be set out; from Profits of which the Charge is to be born. But it cannot be managed but by a Corporation.

Know ye therefore that we, taking the Premises into our Consideration, and being

Society of
Conservators
of the Fens
made a Body
Corporate and
Politic.
Earl of *Bed-
ford* and others
made the said
Body by the
Name of Go-
vernor, Bai-
liffs and
Commonalty
of the Society
of Conserva-
tors of the
Fens.

willing to aid and assist the Progress and Com-
pletion of the said Work, by all Means that
we can, and graciously consenting to the Peti-
tion of the aforesaid Governor and Commo-
nalty of the Society, touching the Premises
aforesaid, of our special Grace, and from our
certain Knowledge and meer Motion, we will
that for ever hereafter there be, and shall be
one Society of Conservators of the Fens,
within our Counties aforesaid, framed into
one Body Corporate and Politic. And we
do for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors,
make, create and appoint the aforesaid *Fran-
cis Earl of Bedford*, and his Participants, *Oli-
ver Earl of Bullingbrooke*, *Henry Lord Mal-
trevers*, *Edward Lord Gorges*, *Sir Francis
Crane*, Knight, Chancellor of the most noble
Order of the Garter, *Sir Miles Sandys*, Knight
and Baronet, *Sir Thomas Tyringham*, Knight,
Sir Robert Lovett, Knight, *Sir Filibert Vernatt*,
Knight, *Sir Miles Sandys*, Knight, *William
Sams*, LL.D. *Oliver Saint John*, Esquire, *An-
thony Hammond*, Esquire, and *Samuel Spalding*,
Gentleman, and others to be elected in the
Form hereafter directed, and their Successors,
in the Society aforesaid, a Body Politic and
Corporate, in Deed and in Name, to have
Succession for ever, by the Name of Gover-
nor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society
of Conservators of the Fens, in our Counties
of *Cambridge*, *Huntingdon*, *Northampton*, *Lin-
coln*, *Norfolk*, and *Suffolk*, and the Isle of
Ely, and by these Presents will that they be
called by the Name aforesaid; and that
of them, one be Governor, another De-
puty

puty Governor, two be Bailiffs, and the rest be of the Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and that they and others, to be elected and admitted in the Form following into that Society, and their Successors by the same Name, may have perpetual Succession. And that they, and their Successors, be and shall be, in all future Times, Persons fit and capable in Law to have, purchase, possess, and retain Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, to themselves and Successors, in Fee and Inheritance, or for Term of Life or Lives, or Years, and Goods and Chattels, and Rights, and Debts of whatsoever Kind, Nature, or Species. And also to give, assign, demise, and dispose of the said Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, Goods and Chattels; and also that they may, by the Name aforesaid, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, in all Courts and Places, and before all the Judges, Justices, Officers, Ministers of us, our Heirs and Successors, in all Actions, Pleas, Complaints, and Demands, in Manner and Form, as any other of our Liege Subjects fit and capable in Law, or as any other Body Politic and Corporate, may and doth.

To have perpetual Succession, purchase Lands and Tenements, and do all other Corporate Acts.

Our Will moreover is, and by these Presents, for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, we grant to the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, That the aforesaid *Francis*, Earl of *Bedford*, be the first and present Governor of the Society aforesaid, and the aforesaid Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, be the first Deputy Governor, and the aforesaid Sir *Thomas Tyringham*, Knight, and

The Earl of *Bedford*, and others, appointed the first Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty.

and Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight, be and shall be the first and present Bailiffs of the Society aforesaid, and the aforesaid *Oliver* Earl of *Bullingbroke*, *Henry* Lord *Maltrevers*, *Edward* Lord *Gorges*, Sir *Francis Crane*, Knight, Sir *Robert Lovett*, Knight, Sir *Philibert Vernatt*, Knight, *William Sams*, *Oliver Saint John*, *Anthony Hamond*, and *Samuel Spalding* be and shall be the first and present Commonalty of the Society aforesaid. And we make, ordain, and create the said *Francis*, Earl of *Bedford*, the first and present Governor, and the aforesaid Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, the first and present Deputy Governor, Sir *Thomas Tyringbam*, Knight, and Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight, the first and present Bailiffs, *Oliver* Earl of *Bullingbroke*, *Henry* Lord *Maltrevers*, *Edward* Lord *Gorges*, *Francis Crane*, *Robert Lovett*, *Philibert Vernatt*, *William Samms*, *Oliver Saint John*, *Anthony Hammond*, and *Samuel Spalding* the first and present Commonalty of the Society aforesaid. Which Governor, our Will is, do continue in his Office until the Feast of St. *Michael* the Archangel, which shall be in the Year of our Lord

Commonalty to the End of their respective Lives, unless for just Cause, any one of the aforesaid Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs, or Commonalty be removed from his Place. And that the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and their Successors, may have a Common Seal, for carrying on any of the Causes or Business of themselves and their Successors; and that it be lawful for them the said Seal at their Will and Pleasure to break and change, and make new, as often and in such manner as to them shall seem fit.

To have a Common Seal, and Power of altering the same.

And moreover for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, we grant to the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, in any convenient Place within the Isle of *Ely*, to be fixed upon by the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, our Leave to have a certain Council Chamber and Common Hall, and therein on the twenty-ninth Day of *September* in every Year, and oftener if the Necessity of the Case requires it, themselves to assemble and meet, and with the free Choice of the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, or the major Part of those who will attend, to nominate and elect one discreet and proper Person, out of the Deputy Governor or Commonalty of the said Society, to be Governor of the said Society; who, being so elected, shall remain and continue in the said Office until the twenty-ninth Day of *September* then next following, and from thence until he or some other
be

To have a Common Hall, there to meet and assemble, and elect Governor and Deputy Governor, and Bailiffs.

be elected Governor in his Room, unless in the mean Time, for a just Cause, he be duly removed from his Place. And also to nominate and elect one honest and discreet Man to be Deputy Governor of the Society aforesaid, and two others to be Bailiffs of the Society aforesaid; who, being so elected into the said Offices, shall severally remain and continue therein until the twenty-ninth Day of *September* then next following, and from thence until they or some of them, or others, be elected in their Room, unless in the mean time, for just Cause, they or any of them be duly removed from their Places. And also that all those, who are seized of not less than fifty

Persons seized
of not less
than fifty
Acres to elect
Commonalty.

Governor,
Deputy Governor,
and
Commonalty
to be removed
on just Cause

Acres of the said Fen Lands in Fee and Inheritance, may for the Time being admit, elect, and put into the Commonalty of the said Society whomever they will; and also admit, elect, put in others in the Room of those who die or are removed, as often as to them shall seem necessary. And our Will is, that the said Governor, and Deputy Governor, and each of the said Bailiffs, and any of the said Commonalty, be for just Cause removable, and to be removed

liffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, themselves to assemble and meet, and then and there another Person or Persons to be Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, in the Form aforesaid, in the room and stead of them the said Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs or any of the Commonalty, or of any of them, or of any one, either dead or removed, to nominate and elect into their Office and Place, to continue till the twenty-ninth Day of *September* then next following, and from thence until he or another be newly elected; to be continued as aforesaid. Which Persons so elected may and shall be respectively Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, in Form aforesaid. And we do by these Presents, for us, our Heirs and Successors, make, create, and appoint them Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and so as often as the Case shall so happen.

And moreover our Will is, and by these Presents we do grant, for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, to the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and their Successors, that it shall be lawful for the said Governor, Deputy Governor, and Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, being convoked by the Governor, or Deputy Governor, of the Society aforesaid, for the Time being, or the major Part of them which shall be then present, being not less than six in Number, one of which to be the Governor, or Deputy Governor,
Governor, Deputy Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty may make Laws and Ordinances for Support of Works, &c.

nor, from Time to Time, for the good Government, Support, and public Advantage of the Society aforesaid, to make, ordain, establish and declare any Statutes, Laws, or Ordinances, touching themselves and their Works in the Fens, and to apply to new Mischiefs that may happen, if it be necessary, new Remedies, and the same to execute. Provided always that the said Statutes, Laws, Ordinances, and Decrees, are not contrary to the Statutes and Laws of this our Realm of *England*.

Governor to
take an Oath
of Office.

And further our Will is, and by these Presents for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, we ordain and appoint, that the aforesaid Earl of *Bedford*, above in these Presents named to be Governor of the Society aforesaid, and every other Person from Time to Time to be elected into that Office, before he be admitted to the Exercise of the Office of Governor of the Society aforesaid, or enter on the said Office, shall take his corporal Oath, on the Holy Evangelists, the said Office well and faithfully in all Thing touching the said Office to execute, before the Deputy Governor, Bailiffs,



Our Will moreover is, and by these Presents for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, we do ordain and appoint that the aforesaid Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, Sir *Thomas Tyringbam*, Knight, and Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight, and any other that shall hereafter be elected into the Office of Deputy Governor, or Bailiffs of the said Society, before they be admitted to exercise the Office of Deputy Governor, or Bailiffs, or enter on the said Office, shall respectively take their corporal Oath upon the Holy Evangelists, the said Office well and faithfully in all Things touching the said Office to execute, before the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, or any two or more of them, to whom like Power and Authority to give and administer such Oath as aforesaid, to the aforesaid Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, Sir *Thomas Tyringbam*, and Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knights, and every other Person from Time to Time into those Offices to be elected, We by these Presents give, and this without any Commission or farther Warrant on this Part from us, our Heirs and Successors, to be had and obtained; and that it shall be lawful for the Governor and Bailiffs of the Society aforesaid, for the Time being, to appoint a proper Form of Oath, to be taken by all the Members of the said Society, their Officers and Servants; and we give and grant like Power to the said Governor, Deputy Governor, and Bailiffs, and their Successors, for them, the said Governor, Deputy Governor and Bailiffs, to administer to, and take from all the Members

Deputy Governor and Bailiffs to take an Oath of Office.

Governor or Bailiffs may appoint proper Form of Oath to be taken.

Members of the said Society, the Oath in the Form aforesaid, and this without any Commission or farther Warrant on this Part from us, our Heirs and Successors, to be had and obtained.

And farther of our special Grace, certain Knowledge and mere Motion, for ourselves, We have given and granted to the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and their Successors, the Conservacy of all Waters and Banks within the Fens and Marsh Grounds aforesaid, as well those that now are as any that shall hereafter be; and for us, our Heirs and Successors, we will, and we grant to the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid and their Successors, that they and their Successors shall be for ever Conservators of the Waters and Banks aforesaid; and we do, by these Presents, make, ordain and constitute to them and their Successors the Power over the Waters and Banks aforesaid, by themselves or their Servants to seize, take away and burn Nets, Wears, and all other Engines, Staunches, Mills, and all other Nuisances, in and upon the Waters and Banks aforesaid placed or hereafter to be placed.

Conservacy of
Fens and
Marshes in the
County of Lincoln
as given to
the Corporation

Bailiffs of the Society aforesaid, for the Time ^{Who may en-}
 being, That they, and two or more of them, ^{quire by Juries}
 may and for ever hereafter shall have a Power ^{of Nuisances,}
 of enquiring, by the Oath of twelve honest ^{&c. commit-}
 and lawful Men of those Counties, and by ^{ted.}
 such other Means as are fitting, of all Tres-
 passes and Offences against the Form of the
 Statute, or against the Law and Custom of
 this our Realm of *England*, in and upon the
 Waters and Banks aforesaid done, commit-
 ted or perpetrated, or hereafter to be done,
 committed or perpetrated, and all and sin- ^{And hear and}
 gular the same of hearing and determining, ^{determine the}
 and those who are convicted thereof of pun- ^{same.}
 nishing by Fines and Amercements, and ^{And punish}
 other Penalties, according to the Laws and ^{by Fines and}
 Customs of this our Realm of *England*. ^{Amercements.}

Moreover we have granted to the afore- ^{Said Fines and}
 said Governor, Bailiffs, and Society, and their ^{Amercements}
 Successors, all Kinds of Penalties, Fines, ^{granted to}
 Amercements, Goods and Chattels, for any ^{the Corpora-]}
 Offences in and upon the Waters and Banks ^{tion.}
 aforesaid, against the Form of the Statutes,
 or against the Law and Custom of this our
 Realm of *England*, forfeited and adjudged, or
 that shall be hereafter forfeited and adjudged.
 And that they, and their Successors, shall
 have the same of the Trespassers and Offen-
 ders in and upon the Waters and Banks
 aforesaid, and all others, in the Hands of
 whomsoever they are found, or from whom-
 soever the same ought to be paid, and all the
 said Fines and Amercements, Goods and Chat-
 tels, by themselves and Servants to seize, re-
 ceive, and enjoy, to the Use and Behoof of
 G the

the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and their Successors, without any Extreat thereof into the Exchequer of us, our Heirs and Successors, to be sent or returned, and without any Impachment of us, our Heirs or Successors, or of any of our Officers or Servants.

A weekly Market, and two annual Fairs, granted to the Earl of Bedford, Lord of the Manor of Thorney, to be held at Thorney.

AND for the Advantage and Ease of those who live in the Parts aforesaid, and that others may be the better induced, from the Neighbourhood of Fairs and Markets, to inhabit those Parts, our Will farther is, and by these Presents for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, we grant to the aforesaid Earl of Bedford, Lord of the Manor of Thorney, and his Heirs and Assigns, that they may have one Market on the *Thursday* in every Week within the said Manor of Thorney, and also two Fairs annually for ever at Thorney aforesaid, one of them to begin on the first Day of *May*, and through that Day and the two Days next the same Day following annually, to continue and last; and the other of the said Fairs there, on the first Day of *September* to be begun; and through that whole Day and two Days

and Fairs, and Court of Pie Powder belonging. Provided always that the said Market or Fairs, or either of them, is not, or are not to the Damage of any other neighbouring Markets or Fairs.

And further of our more abundant Grace, certain Knowledge, and mere Motion, we will for ourselves, and by these Presents for our Heirs and Successors, we grant to the afore-said Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, Lord of the Manor of *Stretham*, his Heirs and Assigns, that they may have one Market, to be held on the *Thursday* in every Week, within the Manor of *Stretham* in the Isle of *Ely*.

And also two Fairs annually for ever to be held at *Stretham* afore-said, one on the Feast of *St. Mark* to begin, and through that whole Day and the two Days next following the said Feast annually to continue and last; the other of the said Fairs there, on the Feast of *St. Michael* the Apostle to begin, and through that whole Day and the two Days the said Feast next following to continue and last; together with a Court of Pie Powder there, at the Time of the said Market and Fairs to be held, together with reasonable Toll, Stallage, and Picage for Stalls, or saleable Things, in the Fairs and Markets afore-said to Sale exposed; together with all Liberties, free Customs, Fines, Amercements, and all other Profits, Commodities, and Advantages whatsoever, to such Kind of Markets and Fairs, and Court of Pie Powder belonging. Provided always that the said Market or Fairs, or either of them, is not, or are not to the

Said Market and Fairs not to be to the Prejudice of any neighbouring Fair or Market.

A weekly Market, and two annual Fairs granted to Sir Miles Sandys, Knight and Baronet, to be held at *Stretham*.

Said Market and Fair not to be to the Prejudice of any neighbouring Fair or Market.

Damage of any other neighbouring Markets or Fairs.

Said weekly Markets and Fairs granted to the Earl of Bedford, and Sir Miles Sandys, their Heirs and Assigns respectively, though no Writ of *ad Quod Damnum* hath issued.

Wherefore we will, and by these Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors, we strictly charge and command that the aforesaid Earl of Bedford and Sir Miles Sandys, and their Heirs and Assigns respectively, have the aforesaid Fairs, and Markets aforesaid, together with a Court of Pie Powder there at the Time of the said Market and Fairs to be held, together with reasonable Toll, Stallage and Picage for the Stalls, or for Things saleable in the Fairs and Markets aforesaid exposed to Sale, together with all Liberties and free Customs, Fines, Amercements and all other Profits, Commodities and Advantages aforesaid, or in any kind to such Markets and Fairs belonging. Provided always that the said Markets and Fairs, or either of them, is not or are not to the Damage of any other neighbouring Markets or Fairs; notwithstanding our Writ of *ad Quod Damnum*, or any other Writ from our Chancery hath not issued to enquire of the Fairs and Markets aforesaid, or any of them, before the making

and Belfries a-new to erect, build, and found;
 and to inclose certain Pieces of Land to the
 said Churches and Chapels adjoining, for the
 Purposes of making Church Yards thereof;
 and the Churches and Chapels so built and
 founded to furnish and adorn with a Font and
 other things necessary for the Administration
 of the Sacrament, and other divine Wor-
 ship; and the said Churches and Church Yards
 to cause, by the Ordinary of the Place where
 they are built, to be consecrated and dedicated
 according to the Ecclesiastical Laws of this
 our Realm of *England*; and that the said Go-
 vernor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the So-
 ciety aforesaid and their Successors, and every
 of them, such Churches and Chapels so found-
 ing, after the Foundation thereof, be for ever
 Patrons of the Churches and Chapels afore-
 said, and have the Right of Patronage of
 every of them, and of presenting to the same
 on every Vacancy a fit Person, by the Ordina-
 ry of the Place canonically to be admitted and
 instituted, and duly to be inducted, to be com-
 manded. We will moreover and by these
 Presents for us, our Heirs and Successors,
 grant to all Bishops, Ordinaries and others, as
 well those who now are as those that may
 be so hereafter whom it may concern, that
 they and every of them the Churches or
 Chapels aforesaid when they are built and their
 Church Yards, may consecrate and dedicate to
 the Divine Honour; and that those Churches
 and Chapels, after they shall be consecrated,
 may serve the Inmates and Inhabitants for the
 Celebration of Divine Service, for the admi-
 nistring

Power given
 to Bishops an
 Ordinaries t
 consecrate th
 said Church
 and Chapels.

nistring and receiving of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, for the Celebration of Marriage, the Baptizing of Infants, the Burying of the Dead, and all other Things which to Churches and Chapels and Church Yards do belong. And that the Rectors of any one, or any of the said Churches or Chapels respectively, and separately be, and shall be, a Body Corporate and Politic, having Succession for ever; and that it may be lawful for them Messages, Land and Tenements, Glebes and other Hereditaments in Fee Simple, in Right of his Church or those Churches or Chapels, to acquire and possess. And that the said Rectors may be provided with a competent Support respectively, we give moreover by these Presents to the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid and every of them, as well those that now are as those that may be hereafter, a Licence and Faculty any Lands within the Level of the Fens aforesaid, or others, with the Payment of Tithes, Fruits and other Things there growing, as to them shall seem best, for the said Rectors to charge; and every Church or Chapel aforesaid and the Rectors of the

ectors of said
churches or
chapels to be
Body Corporate
and Politic.

incorporation to
show said
churches and
chapels.

ing and his Successors in fee to be possessed for ever, to give and grant; and to every such Rector and his Successors respectively all those Things to acquire and hold, by these Presents we likewise give and grant a Licence, notwithstanding the Statute of *Mortmain*; saving always to every Rector or Vicar of every Mother Church in whose Parish Churches or Chapels shall be founded a-new, all his just Rights.

And because the Building and constant Preservation of Bridges made, and the Preservation of many Sluices, Rivers and other Places hereafter to be built, erected and made to bring the Waters within their Banks for the Advantage and Utility of the Public, would require great Sums of Money, We will and grant to the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid and their Successors by these Presents, that it shall and may be lawful for them to take, have and receive to themselves and their Successors, the reasonable Toll following. For all Horses and Carts to pass over the Bridges newly erected, or by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid and their Successors to be erected, to wit, for every loaded Cart four Pence, if it is not loaded two Pence, for every Horse or Mare loaded two Pence, and if they are not loaded one Penny; for twenty Sheep, Calves or Hogs two Pence; and so in Proportion for every twenty Oxen or Cows four Pence, and so in Proportion. And for every Boat passing and navigating under such Bridge as above-

Notwithstanding Statute of *Mortmain*. Saving to Rector and Vicar of every Mother Church.

Corporation empowered for Maintenance of Works to take Tolls.

Tolls specified.

faid, through the Drains or Places aforefaid made a-new and maintained by the aforefaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforefaid, not exceeding four Ton, four Pence, and for every larger Boat eight Pence; for every Boat paffing through the Sluices a-new made and maintained as aforefaid, under four Ton, four Pence, and for every larger Boat eight Pence, and for every Perfon in fuch Boat paffing fuch Sluice as aforefaid one Halfpenny.

Deeds to be
rolled or
registered
within three
Months after
the Date.

And that the Owners of all or any of the Lands aforefaid may be the better known, and on any reasonable Cause refpecting the public Good of the faid Society, may be taxed and affeffed to contribute to the Support of the great Burthen and Expence thereof, We will that all Deeds and Evidence by which any Part of the faid Land fhall by any Means be conveyed and affured from one to another, fhall by the Purchafors or their Agents be inrolled before the Governor, Bailiffs and Society aforefaid, in a Book for that Purpofe to be publickly kept, within three Months next after the Date of the faid Deeds or Evidence,



And whereas it is very plain and manifest that so arduous a Work cannot be performed without much Labour and Pains, and that it will be but of little avail unless it be preserved by constant Attention, Labour, Expence and good Council, that therefore the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, and all the Occupiers aforesaid, may be more attentive thereto and assisting therein, and may remain and continue happily and peaceably in their own Houses, Places and Possessions when they retire thither after such great Charge and Labour for Refreshment and Comfort, without any Fear of Disquiet, Trouble or Grievance; of our more abundant special Grace we have granted for ourselves, our Heirs and Successors, to the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid and every of them and their Successors, and we will that none of them be put without the Liberties of the Precincts of the Fens aforesaid on Assizes, Juries, Attaints, Recognizances or any Inquisitions, although they affect us, our Heirs or Successors or any others, and that none of them be without the Fens aforesaid Collectors of Tenth, Fifteenths, Taxes, Tallages, or any other Charges, Quotas or Impositions of any Kind, by any Means hereafter to be granted and given to us, our Heirs or Successors, and that none of them be or is Constable, Receiver, Bailiff, or other Officer of us, our Heirs or Successors, without the aforesaid Liberties against their Wills.

Our Will moreover is, and by these Presents we grant to the aforesaid Governor, Bai-

liffs

No Owners of Fen Lands to be put on Civil Offices out of the Precincts of the Fens.

These Letters Patents to pass without any Fee to be paid.

liffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, that they may have and shall have these our Letters Patents under our Great Seal of *England* duly made and sealed, without Fine or Fee great or small to us in our Hanaper, or elsewhere, to our Use in any Manner to be returned, paid or made.

Because the
Certainty of
the Premises
granted doth
not appear.

Because there is not in these Presents any Express mention made of the true yearly Value, or of the Certainty of the Premises or of any of them, or of any other Gifts or Grants from us or from any of our Progenitors or Predecessors to the aforesaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Society aforesaid, any Statute, Act, Ordinance, Provision or Proclamation to the contrary heretofore had, made, published, ordained or provided, or any other Thing, Cause or Matter whatsoever in any wise notwithstanding. In witness whereof we have caused these our Letters to be made patent. Witness ourselves at *Westminster* the thirteenth Day of *March* in the tenth Year of our Reign.

By Writ of Privy Seal,



A N
EXEMPLIFICATION
OF THE
St. *Ives* LAW of SEWERS,

Under the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of
England, bearing Date at *Westminster* the 18th
of *March* 1658: Which said Law of Sewers
was made at St. *Ives* in the County of *Hun-*
tingdon, the 12th of *October* in the 13th of
Charles the First, and in the Year of our
Lord 1638.

EXEMPTION

OF THE

ST. LAW OF SEWERS

From the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, bearing Date and Signature the 18th of March 1848: Which said Law of Sewers was made at St. John in the County of Middlesex the 18th of October in the 13th of Charles the First, and in the Year of our

RICHARD, *Lord Protector* of the Commonwealth of *England, Scotland and Ireland*, and the Dominions and Territories thereunto belonging: *To all* to whom these Presents shall come greeting. *We have viewed* certain Laws, Ordinances and Decrees of Sewers made and established at *St. Ives* in the County of *Huntingdon*, the twelfth Day of *October* in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of *Charles* late King of *England*, remaining of Record in the Files of our Chancery in these Words.

At a Session of Sewers at *St. Ives* in the County of *Huntingdon*, the twelfth Day of *October* in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *Charles*, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France and Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith,

Faith, &c. and from thence adjourned to Huntingdon in the County aforesaid, and there continued until the seven and twentieth Day of October next following, touching the Fens, low and late surrounded Grounds of the great Level in the Counties of Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon and the Isle of Ely within the Limits of this Commission, holden before Sir Rowland Saint John, Knight of the Honourable Order of the Bath, Sir Beauchamp Saint John, Sir Robert Bell, Sir Miles Sandys junior, Knights, Thomas Derham, George Glapthorn, Everard Buckworth, Humblestone March, William Fisher, Esquires, and William Hayward, Gentleman, Commissioners of Sewers, then and there assembled by Authority of his Highness's Commission of Sewers to them and others directed, it is ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed as followeth.

ital of

W H E R E A S at a General Session of Sewers at King's Court in

Cutts, Sir *John Hare*, Sir *John Poley*, Sir *Robert Bell*, and Sir *Thomas Dereham*, Knights, and others to the Number of forty and one Commissioners of Sewers then and there assembled for and concerning the Work of draining the great Level of the Fens, low and then surrounded Grounds in the Counties of *Northampton*, *Lincoln*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Cambridge*, *Huntingdon* and the Isle of *Ely*, they, the said Commissioners and the Country became humble Suitors to the said Earl of *Bedford* that his Lordship would be the Undertaker thereof, unto which Motion his Lordship yielded, and did agree to undertake the said Work; whereupon by a Law of Sewers made at the said Sessions, it was (amongst other things) then ordered and decreed that the said Earl should have ninety-five thousand Acres of the said Grounds, to be indifferently assigned and set out unto him the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, of the several Sorts and Qualities of the said Grounds, according to their several Natures and Goodness, by six Commissioners, whereof three to be of the *Quorum*, for his Lordship's Recompence in performing the said Work, and forty thousand Acres, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to be by the said Commissioners assigned and set out to be liable to the Maintenance and Continuance of the said Work of Draining for ever.

And it was then and there further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the new Rivers, Cuts and Drains to be made by the said Earl and his Assigns, and the Banks there-
of

of and the Forelands on the inside of the Banks, not exceeding fifty or threescore Foot at the most in Breadth, should belong and be unto the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, in respect he and they are to maintain the same, as by the said Law or Act of Sewers more at large appeareth, unto the which Law or Act of Sewers his Majesty hath been graciously pleased to give his Royal Assent.

13 June 12
Car. 1. at a
Session of Sew-
ers held at Pe-
terborough,
from thence
adjourned to
St. Ives, from
thence to Wis-
bich.

And whereas after the said Work of Drain-
ing at and by the great Cost, Charges and Ex-
pences of the said Earl well and sufficiently
performed, according to the true Intent of
the said Law or Act of Sewers made at
King's Lynn aforesaid, another general Session
of Sewers was holden at *Peterborough* in the
said County of *Northampton* the thirteenth
Day of *June* in the twelfth Year of his said
Majesty's Reign, and from thence adjourned
to *St. Ives* in the said County of *Huntingdon*
the seven and twentieth Day of the said Month
of *June*, and from thence likewise adjourned
to and continued at *Wisbich* in the Isle of *Ely*
and County of *Cambridge* aforesaid until the
eleventh Day of *August* then next ensuing,

Sewers, they the said Commissioners did or-
 der, decree and adjudge the great Level of
 the said Fens, low and late surrounded Grounds
 within the said Counties of *Northampton, Lin-*
coln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon
 and the Isle of *Ely*, drained according to the
 Purport and Intent of the said Act and Law
 of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid, and
 therefore it was thought fit and so ordained
 and enacted at the Session holden at *Peterbo-*
rough aforesaid, that divers of the Commis-
 sioners then nominated by the Court, and such
 other of the Commissioners as should think fit
 to be present, or any six or more of them,
 should, with all convenient Speed, view the
 Fens and late surrounded Grounds within the
 said Level, and set out, to the said Earl of
Bedford and his Heirs, the Quantity of ninety-
 five thousand Acres of the same, in Recom-
 pence of and for the Draining thereof, with
 Indifferency, according to their Judgments
 and Discretions, in such wise as by the said
 Law of Sewers, made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid,
 is enacted and decreed.

Commissioners
 decree the
 Great Level
 drained ac-
 cording to the
 Intent of *Lynn*
 Law.

And the
 95000 Acres
 to be set out in
 Recompence
 to the Earl of
Bedford.

And accordingly at the said Sessions of
 Sewers, so by Adjournment from *Peterborough*
 to *St. Ives*, and from *St. Ives* to *Wisbich*,
 holden and continued at *Wisbich* aforesaid,
 before a competent Number of the said Com-
 missioners, namely, the said Sir *Rowland Saint*
John, Sir *Beauchamp Saint John*, Sir *Hamand*
Le Strange, Sir *Robert Bell*, Sir *Miles Sandys*
 junior, and others to the Number of twelve
 of the said Commissioners, having, during the
 Time of that Session, personally perambu-
 lated

And they are,
 by the said
 Commissioners
 on View, set
 out and as-
 signed to the
 said Earl, pur-
 suant to the
 Intent of *Lynn*
 Law, with the
 Assistance of
 Sir *Charles*
Harbord, Sur-
 veyor Gene-
 ral to his Ma-
 jesty.

lated and viewed the said fenny, low and late surrounded Grounds, and thereby informed themselves of the several Sorts and Qualities of the said Grounds and of their several Natures and Goodness, and of the Benefit redounding to the several Landowners by Means of the Works of Draining done by the said Earl of *Bedford*, since the Time of his Undertaking to drain the said fenny and low Grounds; in which their Perambulation and View as aforesaid they, the said Commissioners, were assisted by Sir *Charles Harbord*, Knight, his Majesty's Surveyor General, who by his Majesty's Letters under his Royal Hand and Signet was especially recommended to that Service, they the said Commissioners, in Pursuance and Confirmation of the said Decree and Judgment made and given at the said Session of Sewers holden at *Peterborough* as aforesaid, did, at the said Session holden by Adjournment at *Wisbich*, as aforesaid, decree, enact, adjudge and declare, that the said Earl of *Bedford* had, at his Cost and Charges and with the Expence of great Sums of Money,

several and respective Lordships, Manors, Towns, Parishes, Precincts, Fens, and Places of the said great Level, in such sort and manner as in and by a Law, Act and Decree of Sewers made at the said Session of Sewers held by Adjournment at *Wisbich* aforefaid doth more at large appear. And it was further, at the said Session holden by Adjournment at *Wisbich* aforefaid, ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the said Earl of *Bedford* should have, hold and enjoy the said ninety-five thousand Acres of the said fenny and low Grounds to him the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, freed and discharged of and from all Rights and Title of Common, Charges, Demands, and Incumbrances whatsoever.

And it was then and there by the said Commissioners further ordered, enacted, adjudged and decreed, that the said Sir *Charles Harbord*, or such other Person or Persons as he the said Sir *Charles Harbord* should thereunto appoint, should survey and measure out the said ninety-five thousand Acres so decreed unto the said Earl of *Bedford*, and should by lock-spitting, making of small Trenches or Cutts or otherwise, sever or set out the said ninety-five thousand Acres from the several and respective Lands and Commons, whereby the same might be fully known and distinguished, and whereby the said Earl and his Assigns might be enabled by partition Dikes to sever and divide the several Pieces and Proportions of Grounds so to be set out from the said Lands and Commons, and to hold

Same to be
measured un-
der the Direc-
tion of Sir
Charles Har-
bord.

and enjoy the same according to the true Meaning of the said Act made at *Witch* aforesaid.

Where measured,
Schedules
to be made
hereof.

And it was lastly by the said Commissioners agreed and declared, that so soon as the several Proportions and Parcels of Ground before in the said Act mentioned should be fully measured and distinguished from the rest of the Commons and Severals, by the said Sir *Charles Harbord* or such Persons as he should nominate, that then perfect Schedules should be thereof made by him or them accordingly. And that thereupon the said Commissioners would make such further Act or Acts as should be meet for the further assuring and settling thereof, and every Part and Parcel thereof, to and upon the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, and for the local Assignment and Settling of forty thousand Acres thereof, to be set out by the said Commissioners for the perpetual Maintainance of the said Works of Draining in such wise as by the said Act of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid is provided, ordered and agreed, as by the said Act and Law of Sewers made at the said Session of

King's *Lynn* aforesaid, and that the Petitioners received much Prejudice by the Inequality of Allotments contained in the said Law and Decree made at *Wisbich* as aforesaid, the which Complaints his Majesty was graciously pleased to refer to the Consideration of his Highness's most Honourable Privy Council to be heard and determined according to Justice, and thereupon at his Majesty's Court at *Greenwich* the ninth Day of *July* last past the said several Petitions of Complaints being read at the Council Table (his Majesty then present) and considered of and debated in the Presence of many of the Parties and of the said Sir *Charles Harbord*, his Majesty did declare his Royal Pleasure to be, that the said Decrees whereby the said Fens are adjudged drained should by no Ways be impeached as to the Judgment of Draining, but that the Petitions and Complaints concerning the Inequality of Allotments by the Decree of *Wisbich*, especially of the Church of *Ely* and the Land of the Colleges in *Cambridge*, should be referred to the Commissioners who made that Decree and to his Majesty's said Surveyor General, to be ordered and established by them or such of them as should be present at the then next Meeting, as they should think reasonable. And that the Setting-out and Allotment of the Drainers Parts should proceed speedily and effectually without Interruption by the said Complainants or any other, as by an Act of State bearing Date the said ninth Day of *July* appeareth.

Petitions
heard by Pri
vy Council.

The Decree
confirmed as
to Draining.

As to Allot-
ment referre
to Commissio
ners who
made that De
cree.

The said Commissioners assisted by Sir *Charles Harbord* taking Petitions of Complaint in to Consideration, find Errors in the Allotments which they rectify, and decree equal Allotment as in Schedules annexed.

And whereas the Commissioners first abovenamed now assembled at this present Sessions of Sewers, having been therein assisted by the said Sir *Charles Harbord* his Majesty's said Surveyor General, have, according to his Majesty's gracious Direction in the said Act of State mentioned, taken into their serious Considerations as well the said Petitions of Complaint presented to his Majesty, and by the said Act of State referred unto them as aforesaid, as also divers other Petitions of the like Nature exhibited unto them, the said Commissioners upon full and mature Hearing, Examination and Debate of all and singular the Matters complained of in and by the said Petitioners, they the said Commissioners have discovered sundry Errors and Inequalities in the said Allotment or setting forth of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, contained in the said Act and Decree made by Adjournment at *Wisbich* as aforesaid, by Reason of some Mistakes in a Survey before that Time made of the said great Level. And therefore they the said Commissioners, by the special Advice and Assistance of the said Sir *Charles Harbord*,

tance aforesaid, have made and perfected and do hereby decree and ordain a just and equal Allotment of ninety-five thousand Acres of fenny, low and late surrounded Grounds, Parcel of the said great Level, to be hereby assured and decreed to the said Earl of *Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, according to the Tenor and true Intent of the said Law or Act of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid, the which said Allotment or setting forth of the said ninety-five thousand Acres is particularly declared and contained in twenty-six Schedules hereunto annexed.

Now the said Commissioners, having an especial Regard and Consideration of and to all and singular the aforesaid Premises, do hereby adjudge, decree and declare, that the Earl of *Bedford* at his own great Cost and Expence hath well and sufficiently drained all the said fenny, low and late surrounded Grounds of the said great Level lying in the said several Counties of *Northampton, Lincoln, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon* and the Isle of *Ely*, according to the true Tenor and true Intent of the said Act or Law of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid.

And the said Commissioners do hereby further enact, ordain, adjudge and decree unto the said *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, all and singular the Lands and Grounds, and all and every the Parts and Parcels and Proportions of Lands, Fens and Grounds of what Nature soever they or any of them be, with their and every of their Appurtenances set forth, declared and contained

Adjudged to the Earl of *Bedford* to have drained the Fens according to the Intent of the *Lynn* Law.

Decree to Earl of *Bedford* 95000 Acres as in the Schedules annexed,

with Water-
courses, Ri-
vers, Banks,
Forelands,
&c.

Also with
convenient
Ways, Drifts
and Passages.

in the said twenty-six Schedules hereunto annexed, amounting in the whole to the said full Proportion and Quantity of ninety-five thousand Acres of the said fenny, low and late surrounded Grounds of the said great Level. And all and every the Water-courses, Rivers, Drains, Wear-dikes, Forelands not exceeding sixty Foot in Breadth, Banks, Sluices and Works of Draining within, or upon, the said great Level, or any Part thereof, by the said Earl or his Assigns made and erected. And all and singular the Fishings in the said Water-courses, Rivers, Drains, Wear-dikes and every of them, and the Soil, Ground and Inheritance of all and every the said Water-courses, Rivers, Drains, Wear-dikes, Forelands not exceeding sixty Foot in Breadth, Banks, Sluices and Works of Draining and every of them. Together with convenient Ways, Drifts and Passages made and set out, and from Time to Time to be made, appointed and set out, to, and for the said Earl of Bedford, his Heirs and Assigns, for his and their more free, easy and commodious passing to and from the said ninety-

the Lands and Grounds, and all and every the Parts, Parcels and Proportions of Lands, Fens and Grounds declared and contained in the said twenty-six Schedules hereunto annexed, amounting in the whole to ninety-five thousand Acres as aforesaid, and to all and singular the other forementioned Premisses belonging or appertaining, according to the Tenor and true Intent of the said Law or Act of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* aforesaid; To have and to hold all and singular the said Lands and Grounds, Parts, Parcels and Proportions of Grounds, Lands and Fens, set forth, declared and mentioned in the said twenty-six Schedules hereunto annexed, amounting in the whole to ninety-five thousand Acres as aforesaid, and every Part and Parcel of the same, and all and every the forementioned Water-courses, Rivers, Drains, Wear-dikes, Fishings, Forelands, Banks, Sluices and Works of Draining, and the Soil and Inheritance of them and every of them, Ways and Premisses whatsoever, with their and every of their Appurtenances, unto the said *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, freed and discharged from all former Right, Titles, Interests, Conditions, Commons, Rents, Services, Charges, Troubles, Incumbrances, Duties and Demands whatsoever. Except one Fee-farm Rent of Ten Pounds, which is hereby reserved and decreed to be yearly paid unto our Sovereign Lord the King, his Heirs and Successors for ever, at the two Feasts of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, and St. *Michael* the Archangel, by even Portions, and

Wear-dikes, Fishings, to the Earl, his Heirs and Assigns for ever, free from all Incumbrances.

Save a Fee-farm Rent of 10 l. a Year to the Crown.

and to be issuing out of all and singular the Lands and Grounds hereby decreed and assured unto the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, as aforesaid.

High-
particu-
named
set out.

And for the better Habitation, Improvement, Use and Benefit of the said whole great Level, it is further enacted, ordained and decreed by the said Commissioners, in further Pursuance of the said Act or Law of Sewers, made at King's Lynn aforesaid, that convenient summer Ways and Passages shall be made in, upon, and throughout the said great Level in Manner and Form following, that is to say, one Way from *Bedford River* near *Welney* to *Westmore Causeway*, near *Littleport*; one other Way leading from *Upwood Hards*, called *Bottom Hill*, unto *Whittlesey*; and one other Way leading from *Peake Kirke Meadow* unto *Guy Hurn*; and one other Way leading from the Hard Lands of *Chateresse*, called *Wenny Hill*, to the Way in *Sutton Grounds*, leading to *Sutton Galt*, every of the said Ways to contain three-score Foot in Breadth between their several Drains or Wear-dikes; and in Respect the said Ways are to be made and

the Travelling and Passage in, upon and throughout the said Ways hereby enacted and decreed to be made as aforesaid, as also for the Passing to and from any of the Lands of the said great Level near adjoining unto the said Bridges, that is to say, one Bridge over the new River, called *Bedford River*, at *Sutton Gault*; one other Bridge over the said new River, at *Mephal Town*; one other Bridge over the said new River, near *Oxwillow Lode*; and one other Bridge over the said new River, at *Wellney Town*; and that the said Bridges shall be the Inheritance of him the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns for ever.

And it is hereby further enacted, ordained and decreed by the said Commissioners, that the several Lands and Proportions of Ground hereafter particularly mentioned, amounting to forty thousand Acres, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres of fenny and late surrounded Grounds, declared and contained in the said twenty-six Schedules hereunto annexed, and hereby decreed and assured to the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, as aforesaid, shall for ever hereafter stand, be and continue liable and charged to and with the Maintenance and Preservation of all and singular the aforementioned Ways and Bridges, hereby declared to be made as aforesaid, and of all and singular other Works erected and made, or by the said Commissioners appointed to be erected and made by the said Earl of *Bedford*, or his Assigns, for draining and improving of the said great Level according to the true Intent and Meaning of the said Act or Law

A Particular
of the 40000
Acres allotted
for the Main-
tenance of the
Works.

Law of Sewers, made at King's *Lynn* afore-
said. That is to say, the Part decreed unto
the said Earl out of *Reed's Fen*, in *Helgay*,
three hundred and sixty Acres; in *Sir Henry*
Willowbie's several Fen in *Southbery*, on the west
Side of the River *Ouze*, seventy-six Acres;
the Proportions decreed out of the common
Fens of *Weerham*, *Wretton* and *Stoke*, five
hundred and thirty-six Acres; and out the
common Fens of *Norwold* four hundred and
twenty-nine Acres; the Proportion decreed
out of the several Fens in *Metbwold* three
hundred fifty and seven Acres; and out of
the several Fens of *Feltwell* seven hundred fifty
and one Acres; out of the several in *Hock-*
wold, called *Pooling's*, one hundred Acres;
the Proportion decreed out of the common
Fen of *Upwell*, called *Shervins*, two hundred
Acres; and out of *Hale Fen*, and the Com-
mon Piece in *Upwell* five hundred and ninety
Acres; and out of the Fen Grounds, called
Londoners Fens, eight hundred Acres; all
the which forementioned Parcels of Ground
are within the County of *Norfolk*. The
Proportion of Ground decreed in the several

out of *Helgay*
60 A.

Southbery 76 A.

Weerham,
Wretton and
Stoke 536 A.

Norwold 429

Metbwold 357

Feltwell 751

Hockwold 100

Upwell *Shervins* 200 A.

Hale Fen,
and Common
Piece in *Up-*
well 590 A.

Londoners Fen
00 A.

Fen, and four Acres in the Croyle, adjoining also upon great Sedge Fen. The whole Proportion decreed out of the intercommon Fens of *Bot-* *Bottingham;*
stam, Horningsey, Qui and *Ditton*, being four *Horningsey,*
hundred Acres in the said County of *Cam-* *Qui, Ditton,*
bridge; the whole Proportion decreed out of *400 A.*
the Common and several Fen Grounds of *Downbam* in the said Isle of *Ely*, three hun- *Downbam*
dred and ninety Acres; the whole Proportion *390 A.*
decreed out of *Aswell* Moor, near *Coveney*, *Aswell*
in the said Isle of *Ely*, four hundred twenty- *Moor 423 A.*
three Acres; the whole Proportion decreed
out of the common Dammes and several Fen
Grounds of *Maney*, in the said Isle of *Ely*, *Maney 250 A.*
two hundred and fifty Acres; the whole Pro-
portion decreed out of the common Fen,
called *Pyemoor*, near *Witchford*, in the said *Pyemoor 152*
Isle of *Ely*, one hundred fifty-two Acres; the *A.*
the whole Proportion decreed out of *Grumty* *Grumty Fen*
Fen, in the said Isle, four hundred twenty- *426 A.*
six Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out
of the common Fen Grounds of *Chartresse*, in *Chartresse*
the said Isle of *Ely*, three thousand eight hun- *3826 A.*
dred twenty-six Acres; the whole Proportion
decreed out of the several and common Fen
Grounds of *Doddington, March, Wimbling-* *Doddington,*
ton and Berwick, twelve thousand seven hun- *March, Wim-*
dred and forty-nine Acres; the whole Pro- *blington, Ben-*
portion decreed out of the common and se- *twick, 12749*
veral Fen Grounds of *Elms*, in the said Isle *A.*
of *Ely*, two hundred and fifty Acres; the *Elms 250 A.*
whole Proportion decreed out of the com- *Eufymore*
mon Fen Grounds, called *Eufymore*, in the *2000 A.*
said Isle of *Ely*, two thousand Acres; a Par-
cel of the Proportion decreed out of the se-
veral

- Tril's Ground* 4 A. several Fen Grounds of *Thomas Tyril*, Gentleman, lying near Priests Houses, in the said Isle of *Ely*, twenty-four Acres, at the west End of the same Ground; the whole Proportion decreed out of the High Fen and North Fen in *Somersham*, in the County of *Huntingdon*, one thousand five hundred and thirty-three Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the common Fen Grounds of *Warboys*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, one thousand eight hundred sixty-eight Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the common Fen Grounds, called *Wistow* Fen, three hundred eighty-six Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the common Fen Grounds of *Ramsay*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, four thousand five hundred sixty-four Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the several Fen Grounds of Sir *Oliver Cromwell*, Knight, in the Grounds called *Albbeck*, *Abbots*, *Pingle*, and *Wiggin* Moor, in *Ramsay* aforesaid, one hundred seventy-seven Acres; the whole Proportion decreed out of the several Fen Grounds of *Cunington*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, two hundred eighty-one

the whole Proportion decreed out of common Fen Ground of *Woodwalton*, in the said *Woodwalton* County of *Huntingdon*, nine hundred thirty-937 A. seven Acres; a Parcel of the Proportion decreed out of the common Fen Grounds of *Holme*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, *Holme* 27 A. twenty-seven Acres, adjoining upon the said Fen Grounds of *Walton*; a Parcel of the Proportion decreed out of the several Fen Grounds of *Thorney*, in the said Isle of *Ely*, one *Thorney* 1880 A. thousand eight hundred and eighty Acres, lying on the East Part of *Knar* Fen adjoining to the Wride; a Parcel of the Proportion decreed out of the common Fen on the South Side of *Bedford* River, called *Westmoor*, in *Westmoor* Fen, on South of *Bedford* River, 482 A. the said Isle of *Ely*, the said Parcel containing four hundred eighty-two Acres, and lying on the South-east Side of one thousand Acres, Part of the said Proportion, adjoining to *Ox-willow* Load; a Parcel of the said Proportion decreed out of the said common Fen, called *Westmoor*, on the North Side of the said *Bedford* *Westmoor*, on North Side of *Bedford* River, the said Parcel containing four hundred *Bedford* River, 482. eighty-two Acres, and lying on the North-west Side of one thousand Acres, Part of the said Proportion, lying next unto *Welney*; and a Parcel of the Proportion decreed out of the common Fen, called *Byall* Fen, on the North *Byall* Fen 482 A. Side of the said *Bedford* River, the said Parcel containing four hundred and eighty-two Acres, and lying on the North-west Side of one thousand Acres, Part of the said Proportion, next towards *Maney*.

And

Partition
Dikes to be
made accord-
ing to the In-
tent of the
Lynn Law.

And it is further enacted, ordained and decreed, that all Partition Dikes and Fences, which shall be thought necessary to be made to carry away the Rain Water towards the main Drains, shall be made according to the Purport, true Intent and Meaning of the said Act or Law of Sewers made at King's Lynn aforesaid.

Earl of Bedford to have
Power to
make new
Works, &c.
according to
Lynn Law,
under the
Comptrol of
fix or more of
the Commis-
sioners, three
to be of the
Quorum.

And it is hereby further enacted, ordained, decreed and declared, that the said Earl of Bedford, or his Assigns, shall, from Time to Time and at all Times hereafter, have free Liberty and Authority, according to the Power formerly given unto him by the said Law made at King's Lynn aforesaid, to make any such new Works, and to cut Ground and cast up Earth for making such new Banks, and Drains, as by six or more of the said Commissioners of Sewers, whereof three to be of the Quorum, shall be adjudged and decreed as fit and necessary to be made and erected for the further Advancement of this great Work of Draining.

Waters, Pits,
Holes and
Mear grounds

And it is further hereby enacted, ordered, ordained, decreed and declared, that the said Earl

ble, according to Act, and the true Intent and Meaning of the said Act or Law made at King's *Lynn* afore said, although the same be no Parcel of the said Quantiry of ninety-five Thousand Acres, hereby decreed and assured to the said Earl, his Heirs and Assigns, as afore said.

Provided always, and it is hereby adjudged, enacted and declared, that the antient Antient Rivers Rivers and Drains shall be and remain to the and Drains to remain to the right Owners. right Owners thereof, as formerly they did or hereafter should of Right belong, according to the Tenor and true Meaning of the said Act or Law, made at King's *Lynn* afore said; any Thing in this present Act or Law of Sewers to the contrary notwithstanding.

And it is lastly hereby concluded and fully Commissioners agreed by the said Commissioners, that they, with Earl of Bedford to apply to the King for a Ratification of this Decree, together with the said Earl of *Bedford*, shall become humble Suitors to the King's most excellent Majesty, that his Majesty will be graciously pleased to confirm, approve and ratify this present Act and Decree, and, by his Royal Hand signing the same, to declare his Royal Approbation thereof and Assent thereunto; and that his Majesty will be further graciously pleased to recommend the same to the Right Honourable the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, and the Chancellor of his Highness's Dutchy of *Lancaster*, that it may in due Form of Law be confirmed and ratified, both by Decree of the Honourable and that he Court of Chancery and of the Court belong- would get it confirmed by the Court of Chancery and the Dutchy Court, ing to the said Dutchy, and that his Majesty will vouchsafe to recommend the same to the I Right Court,

Right Honourable Lords and others of his Majesty's most Honourable Privy Council, that it may by them be ordered, as Matter of State, not to be altered or impeached, having received the Approbation of that Honourable Board. And that whensoever a Parliament shall be called, and a Bill being then preferred to the two Houses of that High Court of Parliament, and the same be then passed as a Law, that his Majesty would be graciously pleased, for the full and final Confirmation thereof, to give his Royal Assent thereunto.

Id for his
oyal Assent
ereto when
shall, as a
aw, have
assed both
louses of Par-
ament.

In witness whereof the Commissioners first above-named to two Parts of these Presents indented, the one Part to be presented to his Majesty as aforesaid, and the other Part to remain with the Clerk of the Sewers, according to the Law in that Case provided, have set their Hands and Seals the said twenty-seventh Day of *October*, the Year first above written.

We have also viewed certain Schedules or Particulars of Lands to the said Laws, Ordinances and Decrees annexed, under the Seals of certain Commissioners of Sewers, whereby

A SCHEDULE and Particular of such Lands and Proportions of Grounds lying within the Fens, called the great Level of Fens or surrounded Grounds, within the Counties of *Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge, Huntingdon, Northampton, Lincoln* and the Isle of *Ely*, as by this present Law or Act of Sewers are set out, decreed and assured unto the Right Honourable *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns, to be holden and enjoyed by him and them for ever, according to the Tenor of this said Act.

COM. NORF.

OUT of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Denver* in the said County of *Norfolk*, lying on the West Side of the River *Ouse*, three
 12 Hundred

Denver.

Hundred and Fourscoure Acres,
(that is to say) one Hundred
twenty-four Acres out of that
Part of the Fen near *Salter's*
Lode, abutting Eastward upon the
said River, and Northward upon
the River called *Bedford* River.
And the Residue, being two
hundred fifty-six Acres, out of
that Part of the Fen that lieth
next *Salter's Lode* upon the North
Side of the said new River, abut-
ting upon the said new River,
and Well Creek.

380 0

Out of a several Fen Ground
in *Denver* aforesaid, abutting
Westward upon the Grounds of
Well, four Acres at the South
End thereof next *Denver* Fen.

4 0

Helgay.

Out of the common Fens of
or belonging to *Helgay*, in the said
County of *Norfolk*, one thousand
three hundred Acres, (that is to
say) one intire Fen, lying between
Sir *Henry Willoughbbie's* Drain
and *Southery* Common, contain-
ing nine hundred eighty-two
Acres, and the Residue, being
three hundred and eighteen
Acres, out of that Part of the
said Fen abutting Northward up-
on the imbanked Grounds of
Edmund Skipwith Esquire, and
adjoining to the said River *Ouse*.

1300 0

Out

Out of the several Fen
 Grounds of or belonging to Sir
Henry Willoughby, Knight, called
Read's Fen, three hundred and
 sixty Acres, at the North End of
 the said Grounds, abutting upon
Maid Lode. } 360 0 0

Out of the common Fen } *Scutbery,*
 Grounds of or belonging to
Soutbery, in the said County of
Norfolk, eight hundred Acres
 out of the common Fen called
Adymore, abutting upon *Helgay*
 common Fen, and the River *Ouse*. } 800 0 0

Out of the several Fen
 Grounds in *Soutbery* aforesaid, of
 or belonging to Sir *Henry Wil-*
loughby aforesaid, lying on the
 East Side of the River *Ouse*, se-
 venty and six Acres at the South
 End thereof, near to *Modney*
 House. } 76 0 0

Out of one other several Fen
 Ground in *Soutbery* aforesaid, of
 or belonging to the said Sir *Henry*
Willoughby, Knight, lying on the
 West Side of the River *Ouse*, se-
 venty-six Acres at the West End
 of the same Grounds. } 76 0 0

Out of one other several Fen
 Ground, lying in *Soutbery* or *Hel-*
gay, or one of them, of or
 belonging to *Thomas Gibbon*, Esq;
 twenty Acres at the Western End
 thereof, near *Priests Houses*. } 20 0 0

totham.

Out of the common Fen
Grounds of or belonging to *Rox-*
ham, in the said County of *Nor-*
folk, ninety-four Acres at the
South-east Part of the same Fen,
abutting upon *Dereham Coat* Fen,
and the River *Wisse*.

94 0 0

Dereham.

Out of the common Fen
Grounds of or belonging to
Dereham, in the said County of
Norfolk, two hundred Acres,
(that is to say) ninety-five Acres
out of the Fen called *Dereham*
Coat Fen, abutting upon *Roxham*
Fen and the River *Wisse*, and the
Residue, being one hundred and
five Acres, out of the common
Fen, at the Parts thereof abut-
ting upon the said River *Wisse*
and *Wereham*.

200 0 0

Wereham,
Wretton,
and Stoke.

Out of the common Fens
of or belonging to *Were-*
ham, *Wretton* and *Stoke*, in the
said County of *Norfolk*, five
hundred thirty and six Acres in

536 0 0

North Side of the River *Wiffey*, containing twenty-nine Acres, and the Residue, being four hundred Acres, out of the common Fens lying on the South Side of the said River, abutting upon the said River, and lying between *Howbill* and *Wittington* Causey, and between the said River and the hard Lands of *Norwold*. } 429 0 0

Out of the common Fens of or belonging to *Methwold* in the said County of *Norfolk*, one thousand six hundred forty and eight Acres, out of the Fens called *Southmore* and *Twinne Lodes*, abutting North-westward, upon Part of the said Common called *Southmore*, wherein *Southery* doth intercommon North-eastward upon the several Fen Grounds of Sir *Edmund Munford*, Knight, and Southward upon the common Fen of *Feltwel*, called North Fen. } 1648 0 0

Methwold.

Out of the several Fen Grounds of *Methwold* aforesaid, three hundred fifty-seven Acres at the West End of two of the said Severals next *Southery*. } 357 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Feltwel*, in the said County of *Norfolk*, one thousand six hundred ninety-seven Acres, (that is to say)

Feltwell.

say) eight hundred and forty Acres out of the Fen called North Fen, at the North-east Part thereof, abutting upon the common Fen of *Melbwood*, called *Southmore*. Out of the Fen called the Mowe Fen, eighty Acres at the West Part of the same Fen next *Brandon* River ; and the Residue, being seven hundred seventy and seven Acres, out of the Fen called the South Fen, at the South-west Part thereof abutting upon the said Mowe Fen, and the several Fen Ground belonging to Sir *Thomas Woodhouse*.

1697 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Feltwel* aforesaid, seven hundred fifty and one Acres, (that is to say) out of the several Fen Ground now or late of Sir *Thomas Woodhouse*, Knight, abutting upon *Feltwel* South Fen, and a Several belonging to Sir *Edmund*

from North to South. Out of the several Fen Ground belonging to *Christ's* College, abutting upon the said several Fen Ground of Sir *Edmund Mundford* aforesaid; one hundred twenty-six Acres out of the middle Part of the said Ground from North to South. Out of the several Fen Ground late of *Robert Wace*, Gent. abutting upon the said several Ground of *Christ's* College and the River of *Brandon*; one hundred seventy-two Acres out of the Middle of the said Ground from North to South. Out of the several Fen Ground lying between the Fen Grounds of *Christ's* College aforesaid and the River of *Brandon*, fourteen Acres abutting Northward upon the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Gibbon*, Esq. Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Thomas Tyrel*, Gent. lying between the aforesaid Fen Grounds of Sir *Edmund Mundford*, Knight, and the River of *Brandon*, thirteen Acres and twenty Perches at the South-east End of the same Ground. Out of the several Fen Ground lying between the several Fen of Sir *Thomas Woodhouse* aforesaid and the River of *Brandon*, ten Acres and three Roods
at

at the South Part thereof. Out of the several Fen Ground late of *Robert Wace*, Gent. abutting upon the hard Lands of *Feltwel* aforefaid, fix Acres and Ten Perches at the North-west end of the same Ground. Out of the several Fen Ground lying between *Feltwel* Mowe Fen and the River of *Brandon*, fix Acres and ten Perches at the North-west End thereof.

751 0

**Hockwold
and Wil-
ton.**

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Hockwold* and *Wilton*, in the said County of *Norfolk*, nine hundred and fifty Acres out of the common Fen adjoining to the common Fens and the hard Lands of *Feltwel*, and abutting upon the said hard Lands of *Feltwel*.

950 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of *William Heveningham*, Esq; two hundred Acres (that is to say) out of the several Ground called *Poolings*, one hundred Acres at the North Side thereof, abutting upon *Feltwel* Mowe Fen and the River of *Brandon*, and out of one other several Ground lying on the South-west Side of the said River of *Brandon*, one hundred Acres abutting upon the Fen called *Redmore* Grounds and the said River of *Brandon*.

200 0

Out

Out of the several Fen
Ground of *Osbert Pratt*, Gent. } 10 0 0
lying next the Fen called Sea
Fen, ten Acres at the North
End of the same Ground.

C O M. S U F F.

OUT of the common Fen } *Brandon.*
Grounds of or belonging
unto *Brandon*, in the County of
Suffolk, three hundred and fifty
Acres, (that is to say) one intire
Fen abutting upon the East Part
of the common Fen of *Lacking-*
beath called *Stallard*, one hundred
and ninety Acres; and the Resi-
due, being one hundred and sixty
Acres, out of a common Fen abutt-
ing upon the said intire Fen, at
the West End of the said com-
mon Fen. } 350 0 0

Out of the common Fen } *Lacking-*
Grounds of or belonging to *Lack-*
ingbeath, in the said County of
Suffolk, one thousand and eight
hundred Acres, (that is to say)
the Moiety or one half of the
common Fen called *Little-shell*,
or *East-more*, being ninety-two
Acres at the Eastern Part there-
of, next the common Fen called
Arch-

Archingfal. The said intire common Fen called *Archingfal* containing one hundred seventy-four Acres. One intire common Fen abutting upon the River of *Brandon*. *Audry Lode*, and the several Fen Ground of *William Heveningham*, Esq; containing forty-seven Acres. One intire common Fen lying on the North Side of *Brandon* River, between the common Fen of *Hockwold* and *Wilton*, called Sea Fen, and the several Fen of *William Heveningham* aforesaid, containing fifty-eight Acres and a Half. The intire common Fen called *Town-more*, containing five hundred seventy-nine Acres; and the Residue, being eight hundred forty-nine Acres and a half, out of the great common Fen abutting upon *Plant Lode* and the said Fen called *Town-more*, at the North-west Part thereof

1800 0 0

three Acres and two Roods at the West End of the same Ground.

Out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *William Steward*, Gent. lying at the West End of the common Fen called *Stallard*, three Acres and one Rood at the West End of the same Ground.

Out of one other several Fen Ground now or late of the said *William Steward*, lying on the North Side of *Brandon River*, six Acres and one Rood at the North West End of the same Ground.

Out of the several Fen Ground abutting upon the said common Fen called *Stallard* and the High Lode, four Acres at the North End of the same Ground. Out of a triangular several Fen Ground, abutting upon the said common Fen called *Stallard* and the High Lode, one Acre three Roods and twenty Perches at the South End of the same Ground. Out of the several Fen Ground lying between

- o Winter Lode and Cross Water, at the Meeting of the same Lodes, one Acre three Roods and twenty Perches at the North-west End thereof. Out of a several Fen Ground lying near Willow Lode, encompassed on all Sides with the common Fen of

Lack-

Lackingbeath aforeſaid, two Acres at the Weſt Part of the ſame Ground. Out of the ſeveral Fen Ground lying on the Eaſt Part of the laſt mentioned ſeveral Ground, four Acres and one Rood at the North-weſt End thereof. Out of one other ſeveral Fen Ground lying on the Eaſt Part of the ſeveral Ground laſt mentioned and abutting upon Croſs Water, eight Acres at the North-weſt Side of the ſame Ground next unto Croſs Water aforeſaid. Out of the ſeveral Fen Ground, lying between the laſt mentioned ſeveral Ground and Willow Lode, two Acres and three Roods at the Weſt End of the ſame Ground. Out of the ſeveral Fen Ground, abutting upon the Weſt Side of Winter Lode and High Lode aforeſaid, fifteen Acres and two Roods at the North-weſt End thereof abut-

West End hereof, abutting upon Plant Lode and Delf Dike. Out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Crane*, abutting upon High Lode, and the several Ground now or late of *William Barne*, Gent. eight Acres and two Roods adjoining upon the said several Ground of *William Barne* and the said High Lode. Out of the said several Fen Ground now or late of *William Barne* afore said, ten Acres adjoining upon the said several Ground of *John Crane*. Out of one other several Fen Ground now or late of the said *John Crane*, lying near the said several Ground of *William Barne* afore said, six Acres and two Roods at the North-west Side of the same Ground, abutting upon High Lode afore said. Out of the greater of the two several Fen Grounds lying between *Delf* Dike and *Brandon* River, eight Acres and two Roods at the North-west Side thereof. And out of the other smaller Several, lying between *Delf* Dike and *Brandon* River, three Acres and three Roods at the North End of the same Ground.

280 o o

Out

hidden
all.

Out of the common Fen Ground of or belonging to *Mil-den* Hall, in the said County of *Suffolk*, two thousand nine hundred and twenty Acres, (that is to say) one intire Common called *Burnt Fen*, containing one thousand seven hundred and thirty-seven Acres. Two intire Fen Grounds called *Sedge Fens*, lying between *Burnt Fen* and *Town More* in *Lackingbeatb* aforesaid, containing eight hundred and forty Acres. And the Residue, being three hundred forty and three Acres, out of the common Fen lying between the several Fen Grounds of *Unly Farm* and *Baldwin's Lode*, at the West Part of the same Fen.

2920 0 0

COM. CANTABR.

den Hall, containing three hundred and eight Acres. Out of the Mow Fen of *Isleham*, abutting upon the fore-mentioned common Fen of *Isleham* and the said River of *Milden* Hall, four hundred thirty-two Acres at the North Part thereof. And out of the common Fen of *Isleham*, called West Fen, abutting upon the common Fens of *Sobam*, called Little *Metlam* and the *Hasse*, one hundred and ninety Acres at the North End of the same Fen.

930 0 0

Sobam.

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Sobam* and *Barway*, in the said County of *Cambridge*, one thousand and eight hundred Acres, (that is to say) the intire common Fen abutting upon *Wicken* High Fen, called *Fordey*, containing one hundred fifty-six Acres and a Half. Out of the common Fen called *Barway* Middle, seventy-four Acres and a half at the North-east Part thereof, abutting upon Sea Lode and the River *Ouse*. The two intire common Fens called Great *Metlam* and Little *Metlam*, containing one thousand two hundred and ten Acres. And out of the common Fen called the *Hasse*,

K

three

three hundred fifty-nine Acres at
the North Part thereof, abut-
ting upon Little *Mellam* afore-
said. } 1800 0 0

Out of the several Fen
Ground in *Sobam* afore said, of or
belonging to Sir *Robert Heath*,
Knight, four hundred and twen-
ty Acres. Out of the several
Fen Ground called Great *Met-*
lam, abutting upon the Common
called Great *Mellam* and the Ri-
ver of *Milden Hall*, at the East
Part of the said several Fen. } 420 0 0

Out of the several Fen
Ground in *Sobam* afore said, lying
between the Fens called East Fen
and Calf Fen, eight Acres at the
East End thereof. } 8 0 0

Out of the several Fen
Ground in *Sobam*, called *Bug-*
beach, one Acre at the West
End thereof. } 1 0 0

Sobam. Out of the common Fen
Grounds of *Sobam* belonging to

Acres, (that is to say) out of the common Fen, called the Sedge Fen or Broad Meadow, three hundred Acres at the Western End thereof, abutting upon *Reach* Lode, the hard Lands of *Wickin*, and the imbanked several Grounds of *Isaac Barrow*, Esq; and the Residue, being one hundred and fifty Acres, out of the common Fen called High Fen, at the North-east Part thereof adjoining upon the several Ground of *Theisford*, called the *Botts Gangs*, and the River *Grant*.

450 0 0

Out of the Fen Grounds of *Wickin* aforesaid, being Mow Fens or *Lamas* Grounds, consisting of the Lots or Doles of divers Persons, one hundred Acres; (that is to say) out of the mowing Ground lying on the West Side of the River *Grant*, fifty-five Acres and three Roods at the West End of the same Lots or Doles, abutting upon the common Fen of *Water-beach*, called *Joyst* Fen; out of the mowing Grounds lying between the hard Lands of *Wickin* aforesaid, the River *Grant*, the several Fen Grounds of *Upmeere* Farm, and the Way leading from the hard Lands of *Wickin*, unto *Dimock's*

Coat, twenty-three Acres and one Rood at the middle Part of the said Mow Fen, where the said Doles or Lots do abut one upon another, extending from the said hard Lands of *Wickin* to the said Way leading to *Dimock's* Coat; and out of the mow Fen Ground lying between the said Way leading to *Dimock's* Coat, the River *Grant*, the High Fen of *Wickin* and the hard Lands of *Wickin*, twenty-one Acres at the middle Part of the said Mow Fen, where the said Doles or Lots do abut one upon another, extending from the said Way leading to *Dimock's* Coat unto the Way leading to *Wickin* High Fen aforesaid.

100 0 0

Out of a several Sedge Fen of *Isaac Barrow*, Esq; lying in *Wickin* aforesaid, twenty-one Acres at the North-west Part thereof.

21 0

said seven Acres at the West End thereof, abutting upon the hard Lands of *Wickin* afore said; out out the several Fen Grounds belonging to *Upmeer* Farm five Acres at the North-east End of the same Grounds, abutting upon the Mow Fen of *Wickin* and the River *Grant*; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of Sir *Edward Peyton* afore said, lying upon the West Side of the River *Grant*, five Acres at the South-west End thereof abutting upon the River *Grant*; and out of the several Fen Ground of — *Dalton*, Gent. adjoining to the said several Fen of Sir *Edward Peyton* and the River *Grant*, three Acres at the South-west Part of the same several Ground.

20 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Burwel* and *Reach* in the said County of *Cambridge*, seven hundred Acres at the North-west Part of the same Fens abutting upon *Wickin* Lode and *Reach* Lode.

**Burwel
and Reach**

700 0 0

Out of the intercommon Fens of or belonging to *Swafham* Prior, *Swafham* Bulbeck, *Botsam* and *Reach*, in the said County of *Cambridge*, or to some or one of them, one thousand four hundred Acres, (that is to say) out of the common Fen,

Swafham.

called White Fen, four hundred and eleven Acres abutting upon *Swafham* Lode and White Fen Lake. Out of the common Fen called the *Croyle*, four hundred and four Acres abutting Eastward upon the common Fen called great Sedge Fen, Southward and Westward upon the Residue of the same common Fen called the *Croyle*, and Northward upon the common Fen called the High Fen; out of the said common Fen called the High Fen, four hundred and five Acres at the North-east Part thereof abutting upon *Reach* Lode and the River *Grant*; and out of the common Fen called great Sedge Fen, one hundred and eighty Acres at the North End thereof abutting upon the High Fen and *Reach* Lode.

1400 00

Bosham.

Out of the common Fen
Grounds of or belonging to Bot-

in the said County of *Cambridge*, or to some or one of them, four hundred Acres; (that is to say) out of the common Fen called High Fen, one hundred Acres at the Eastern End thereof abutting upon the common Fen called the Rough; and out of the said common Fen called the Rough, three hundred Acres at the Western Part thereof abutting upon the said High Fen.

400 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Water-Beach* in the said County of *Cambridge*, seven hundred and fifty Acres; (that is to say) out of the Fen called the *Joyst* Fen, six hundred thirty-eight Acres at the North End thereof abutting upon the several Fen Grounds of *Stretbam* and *Wickin*; and out of one other Fen, lying between the said Fen called *Joyst* Fen, the River *Grant*, and the hard Lands of *Water-Beach*, one hundred and twelve Acres at the North-east End thereof, abutting upon the said Fen called *Joyst* Fen and the River *Grant*.

*Water-
beach.*

750 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Cottenbam* in the said County of *Cambridge*, two hundred and

*Cotten-
bam.*

forty Acres at the East End of
the common Fen, lying between
the common Fens called *Secb*
Hill Fens and the Lots.

240 0 0

nypton.

Out of the common Fen
Grounds of or belonging to
Rampton in the said County of
Cambridge, sixteen Acres; (that
is to say) out of the Mow Fen
called *Hempfal*, thirteen Acres
at the North-east End thereof
abutting upon *Smilby* Fen in
Cottenham; and out of the com-
mon Fen Ground called *Iram*,
three Acres at the East Corner
thereof abutting upon *Hempfal*
aforesaid.

16 0 0

Wiveling-
n.

Out of the common Fens of
or belonging to *Wivelingham* in
the said County of *Cambridge*,
one hundred eighty three Acres
and one Rood; (that is to say)
out of the common Fen Ground
called *Hempfal*, fifty three Acres
at the North Part thereof adjoin-

North End thereof abutting upon the several Fen Grounds of *Over* and the several Fen Grounds in *Wivelingbam*, called the Meer Grounds.

183 1 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Wivelingbam* aforesaid, forty Acres and three Roods; (that is to say) out of the several Ground called *Shelfould*, consisting of the Lots or Doles of divers Persons, twelve Acres and three Roods at the South-west End of the said Lots next unto the Fens of *Over*; out of the several Fen called *Babies Hurne* thirteen Acres and three Roods at the North End thereof abutting upon the River *Onse*; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *James Pascall*, Gent. called *Stacks*, seven Acres at the North-east End thereof abutting upon *Audrey Causey*; and out of the several Fen of *John Crane*, Esquire, called *Little Shelfould*, seven Acres and one Rood at the North-east Corner thereof near *Eriib Sluce*.

40 3 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Over* in the said County of *Cambridge*, one hundred Seventy-one Acres; out of the Fen called the Marish

Over.

at

at the East End thereof, abutting North-westward upon the East End of the Lots or Doles of divers Persons, extending from the Place called the *Haywards* Swath unto the Bank of the River *Ouse* Eastward upon the several or the late inclosed Grounds of *Over* aforesaid called *Blunio* Meer, and Southward upon the Residue of the said Fen called the Marish.

171. 0 0

*INSULA ELIEN IN
COM. CANTABR.*

**Hadden-
ham.**

OUT of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Haddenham* in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, three hundred seventy-eight Acres; (that is to say) out of the Fen called *Gaul* Fen three hundred and nine Acres at the East Part thereof abutting upon *Berry* Fen; and the Residue, being sixty-nine Acres, out of the common Fen called *Berry* Fen aforesaid, at the West Side thereof, abutting upon *Gaul* Fen aforesaid.

378 0 0

Dut

Out of the several Fen
 Grounds of or belonging to *Haddenham* aforesaid, one hundred
 thirty and eight Acres; (that is
 to say) out of the several Fen
 Ground called *Ewell Fen*, thirty-
 six Acres and two Roods at the
 West Part thereof abutting upon
Gaul Fen and the Delfs in *Hadden-*
ham; out of the Mow Fen called
Lindon Doles, nine Acres at the
 South Side thereof abutting upon
 the River *Ouse*; out of the se-
 veral Fen called *Priests Croft*,
 one Acre at the South End
 thereof next the River *Ouse*;
 out of the greater Fen Ground
 called *Hill Doles*, twelve Acres
 and twenty Perches at the North
 Side thereof next *Haddenham*
 small Fen; out of the lesser Fen
 Ground called *Hill Doles* three
 Acres, one Rood and twenty
 Perches, at the North End there-
 of next *Sutton Mead Lands*; out
 of the several Fen Grounds called
Over Delfs and Pingles, being
 eighteen in Number, lying on
 the South Side of *Erith Causey*,
 between the several Fen Grounds
 of *Edward Carter* and *Henry*
White, forty-two Acres, as the
 same is already by Lockspits or
 small Trenches proportionably
 divided and set out at the South
 End

End of every of the said eighteen several Fen Grounds, abutting upon the River *Ouse*; out of the several Fen Grounds called *Nether Delfs*, lying between *Erith* Causey and the said Fen called *Gaul Fen*, being fifteen in Number, twenty-nine Acres, three Roods and twenty-two Perches, as the same is already also set out proportionably, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from every of the said fifteen several Fen Grounds; out of the several Fen Ground now or late in the Tenure or Occupation of *Henry White*, lying next *Ewell Fen*, one Acre and ten Perches at the North End thereof, abutting upon the Bank of *Ewell Fen* aforesaid; out of the several Fen Grounds now or late in the Tenure or Occupation of *Thomas Pamplin*, Gent. lying on the North Side of *Erith Causey*, two

on the the North Side of *Eriib* Causey, one Acre at the West End thereof; out of the severall Fen Ground now or late of *Richard Wine*, Gent. lying on the North Side of *Eriib* Causey near *Eriib* Bridge, one Rood and ten Perches at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the said Ground of *Humberston March* aforesaid; and out of the severall Fen Ground lying between *Audrey* Causey and *Liwell* Fen aforesaid, two Roods and thirty Perches at the South End thereof.

138 0 0

Out of the Common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Wilburton*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, one hundred seventeen Acres and two Roods; out of the Fens called *Skeg* Fen and *Rush* Fen, at the West Sides of the said Fens abutting upon the common Fens of *Haddenham*, the River *Ouse* and the hard Lands of *Wilburton* aforesaid.

Wilburton

117 2 0

Out of the severall Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Wilburton* aforesaid, six Acres and two Roods; (that is to say) out of the severall Fen Ground of *Sir Miles Sandys*, Knight, fifteen Perches abutting upon *Skeg* Fen; out of the severall Ground now or late

late

late of — *Ware*, Yeoman, thirty Perches abutting also upon *Skeg Fen*; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of — *Sanders*, Yeoman, fifteen Perches abutting also upon *Skeg Fen*; and out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Towers*, Gent. six Acres and twenty Perches at the West Part thereof, abutting also upon *Skeg Fen* and the Bank of the River *Ouse*.

Strettham
and *Thet-*
ford.

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Strettham* and *Thetford* in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, one hundred seventy-two Acres and two Roods out of the Mow Fen of *Strettham* aforesaid, called Chair-fen Plain, at the East Side thereof, abutting upon *Chittering Dike* and the River *Ouse*.

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Strettham* and *Thetford* aforesaid, se-

6. 2. 0

172. 2

more, two Acres and one Rood at the North-west End thereof, next the common Fen called *Gould's Moor*; and out of the several Fen Grounds, of *Tbetford* aforeſaid, called the Boats Gangs, fifteen Acres and one Rood; (*viz.*) the intire ſeveral Fen Ground called the Long Roods, abutting upon *Wickin Fen*, containing nine Acres, one Rood and ten Perches; the intire Fen Ground called the Short Roods, abutting upon *Sobam Fen*, containing two Acres and five and twenty Perches; out of the ſeveral Ground of *Oliver Cromwel*, Gent. called *Moonſbell*, thirty-five Perches at the South Side thereof abutting upon the ſaid Fen called Short Roods; out of the ſeveral Fen of *John Gillingham*, Gent. called the Lot, thirty-five Perches at the Eaſt End thereof abutting upon the Common Lots, the intire Fen Ground called Common Lots, abutting upon the long Roods aforeſaid, containing two Acres and three Roods; and the intire Common Lot lying near *Harrimore Houſe*, between the Rivers *Oufe* and *Grant*, containing two Roods and fifteen Perches.

77 2 0

12.

Out of the common Fen
 Grounds of or belonging to the
 Town and City of *Ely*, in the
 said Isle of *Ely* and County of
Cambridge, one thousand three
 hundred and forty Acres; (that
 is to say) out of the common
 Fen called Little Shell or East
 Eastmore, ninety-two Actes at
 the West Side thereof abutting
 upon the common Fen called
 Great Shell; and the said intire
 common Fen called Great Shell,
 containing one thousand two
 hundred and forty eight Acres.

1340 0 0

Out of the severall Fen
 Grounds of or belonging unto the
 Town and City of *Ely* aforesaid,
 two hundred twenty and four
 Acres; (that is to say) out of the
 severall Fen Ground of or be-
 longing to *Shippey* Farm, forty
 Acres at the South Part thereof,
 abutting upon the common Fen
 called Great Shell, out of the

Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Thorney Farm*, forty-seven Acres at the South-east Part thereof, abutting upon the several Fen Grounds of *Norney Farm* and the several Fen Ground of Sir *Robert Heath*, Knight, in *Sobam*, called *Great Metlam*; out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Norney Farm*, seventy-Nine Acres abutting Westward upon the black Bank, Northward upon the Grounds of *Thorney Farm*, and Southward and Eastward upon the Residue of the same Fen Ground of *Norney*; out of the several Fen Grounds late of or belonging to Sir *Simon Steward*, Knight, lying in *Stuntmy Farm*, two and twenty Acres at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the Grounds of *Norney Farm*; out of eight several Fen Grounds lying between the common Fens called *Dunstal*, the several Grounds of *Thorney Farm* and *Stock Lode*, twelve Acres, as the same is lockspitted and set out at the North-east Ends of the same Grounds, abutting upon *Stock Lode* aforesaid and the Grounds of *Thorney Farm* aforesaid; and out of the several Fen Grounds of *Bream Farm*, four Acres at the South-east End thereof next the River *Ouse*.

224 ○ ○

Out of the common Fens of
or belonging to *Stunty*, thirty-
two Acres abutting Eastward up-
on *Sobam* Causey, and Southward
upon the common Fens of *Sobam*
called the Borders.

32 0 0

Littleport.

Out of the intercommon
Fen Grounds of or belonging to
Ely Downham and *Littleport* in
the said Isle of *Ely* and County
of *Cambridge*, or to some or one
of them, four thousand two hun-
dred and ninety Acres; (that is
to say) one intire common Fen
called *Lowell* Moor, containing
one hundred seventy-four Acres;
and the Residue, being four thou-
sand one hundred and sixteen
Acres, out of the great common
Fen called *Whelp* Moor, abut-
ting North-eastward upon Part
of the same Fen, lying near
Priests Houses, the several Fen
Grounds of *Thomas Gibbon*, Esq;
the several Fen Grounds called

4290 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Littleport* aforeſaid ſeven hundred Acres, (that is to ſay) out of the ſeveral imbanked Fen Ground of or belonging to *Sir Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, three hundred Acres at the North-eaſt End thereof, abutting North-weſtward upon the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Thomas Towers*, Gent. North-eaſtward upon the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Sir Henry Willoughby*, Knight, and *Thomas Tyrel*, Gent. and South-eaſtward upon a Cloſe, Parcel of the ſame imbanked Grounds, and the Bank of the ſaid Grounds near unto the Houſe called the Chain Houſe near the River *Ouſe*; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of or belonging to *Thomas Towers*, Gent. called *Crouchmore*, ſeventy Acres abutting upon the ſeveral Fen Grounds of *Sir Henry Willoughby*, Knight, and the ſaid imbanked Grounds of *Sir Miles Sandys* aforeſaid; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of or belonging to *William Hawkins*, Gent. called alſo *Crouchmore*, fifty-five Acres at the North Part of the ſame Fen, abutting upon the common Fen called *Hale Fen*; and the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Sir*

Henry Willoughby, Knight; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Tyrell*, Gent. lying near Priests Houses, twenty-seven Acres at the West End of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground late of *Nicholas Milfop*, lying near *Apeshall*, called the Wood-ground, fourteen Acres at the North-west Part of the same Ground, abutting upon *Westmore* and the several Grounds of *Apeshall* Farm afore said; out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Apeshall* Farm afore said thirty Acres; out of the several Fen called *Garners*, abutting upon the common Fen called *Westmore* and the River *Welney*; out of the several Fen Grounds now or late of *Henry Milfop*, Gen. twenty Acres; out of the several Fen called *Arch-deacon Croft*, at the West Part thereof abutting upon the said

west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Roger Collin*, three Acres, one Rood and ten Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Smith*, adjoining to the Vicarage Croft, one Acre, three Roods and twenty-five Perches at the North-west Side of the same Ground; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground now or late of *John Horne*, one Acre, three Roods and twenty-five Perches at the South-east Side of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Hand*, four Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Widow Alderton*, four Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *William Cooke*, three Acres and twenty Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Wadley*, three Roods and twenty Perches at the East Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *William Goats*, lying near *Cambridge Croft*, one Acre and thirty-two Perches at the North End thereof; out of the

the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Andrew Neale*, three Roods and twenty Perches at the North End thereof; out of the adjoining several Ground of *Thomas Crabbe*, one Acre and twenty Perches at the West End thereof next *Welney* River; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Vernell*, one Acre and fifteen Perches at the North Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Day* adjoining unto Bell Croft, five Acres, three Roods and twenty-five Perches at the South Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground late of *Jane Chambers*, two Acres, two Roods and thirty Perches at the Eastern Corner thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *William Smith*, one Acre, three Roods and fifteen Perches at the South Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *George Wilson*,

Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Robert Aspland*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty-five Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Millop*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty-five Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Robert Groom*, two Acres, one Rood and twenty-five Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, six Acres and fifteen Perches at the North End of the Ground adjoining to New Dike; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Millop*, six Acres, one Rood and ten Perches at the South-east Side thereof abutting upon New Dike; out of the several Fen Ground of *Henry Meadows*, seven Acres, two Roods and thirty Perches at the West Side of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Robert Alexander*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty Perches at the East Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *William Hawkins*,

Haukins, two Acres and ten Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Crabbe*, adjoining to the Ground called the Common Acre, three Acres at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Milfop* the Elder, adjoining to Archdeacon Croft, three Acres and one Rood at the South End of the same Ground abutting upon *Welney* River; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Richard White*, adjoining to the aforementioned Ground of *Thomas Milfop*, one Acre, one Rood and fifteen Perches at the South-east Corner of the same Ground next *Welney* River; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *William Wright*, three Acres and three Roods on the West Side thereof adjoining to the Ground

Roods and twenty Perches at the South-east Side of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Richard Mares*, one Acre, one Rood and twenty Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Sharp*, three Acres, two Roods and twenty Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Wilson*, near adjoining to the Fen Ground called the Hundred Acres, three Acres and one Rood at the East Side thereof; out of the adjoining Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Milfop*, nine Acres, one Rood and twelve Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Richard Ward*, three Acres at the East Part thereof; out of the several Ground of *Robert Lukin*, Esq; being Part of the Ground called the Hundred Acres, fourteen Acres at the West Side thereof; out of the several Ground of *Widow Crab*, being also Part of the Ground called the Hundred Acres, sixteen Acres and three Roods at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Cole*, Gent. adjoining to the Ground called *Garners*, seven Acres,

Acres, two Roods and ten
 Perches at the East Part thereof
 abutting upon *Welney River*;
 out of the several Fen Ground
 now or late of *William Johnson*,
 four Acres and two Roods at the
 North-west Corner thereof abut-
 ting upon *Welney River*; out of
 the several Fen Grounds of ———
Goats, Yeoman, adjoining to
 the Common Acre, three Roods
 and ten Perches at the North-
 west Side thereof; out of the se-
 veral Fen Ground of *John Day*,
 adjoining to the common Acre,
 one Acre, two Roods and twenty
 Perches at the South-west End
 thereof; out of the several Fen
 Ground of *Thomas Plumme* and
Thomas Clarke, one Acre and ten
 Perches at the South End thereof
 next the Wood Grounds of *Ap-
 shall Farm*; out of the several Fen
 Grounds of *Samuel Kinswick*, at
 the South End thereof, one Acre.

End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Boughton*, three Roods and twenty Perches at the North-west Part of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Glasier*, one Acre and thirty-five Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Millop*, called *Whinne-bush* Croft, three Acres and twenty Perches at the North-west Part thereof; and out of the several Ground called *Cambridge* Crofts, eight Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the West Side thereof abutting upon *Welney* River and the *Mare* Fen.

700 0 0

Out of the several Fen Ground of or belonging to *Thomas Gibbon*, Esq; lying between the common Fen called *Whelp* Moor, and the River of *Brandon*, one hundred and ninety Acres at the South End thereof abutting upon the Fen Grounds called *Redmore* Grounds.

190 0 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds called *Redmore* Grounds, lying between the said common Fen called *Whelpmore* and the River of *Brandon*, one hundred twenty-six Acres at the South Part

Redmore
Grounds.

Part of the same Grounds, abutting upon the several Fen Ground of *William Heveningham*, Esq; and the said River of *Brandon*.

126 0 0

Downham in the Isle.

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Downham*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, called West Fen, three hundred eighty-eight Acres and two Roods abutting South-westward upon the common Fen Grounds called *Pye Moor* and *Ashwell Moor*.

388 2 0

Out of the several Fen Ground of *John Carter*, lying near *Downham Hive*, one Acre and two Roods at the North-east Corner thereof.

1 2 0

Westmoor.

Out of the great intercommon Fen called *Westmoor* and *Cranmoor*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, five thousand Acres, (that is to say) three thousand Acres on the

of that Part of the said Fen that lieth on the North Side of *Bedford* River aforeſaid, abutting upon the ſaid River and *Oxewil-low* Lode aforeſaid.

5000 0 0

Out of the common Fen Ground called *Hale* Fen, lying in or near *Coveney* in the ſaid Iſle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, one hundred and eighty Acres, abutting Eaſtward upon the hard Lands of *Coveney*, and the Gravel-way leading to *Coveney*, and on all other Parts upon the Reſidue of the ſame Fen.

Coveney.

180 0 0

Out of one other common Fen Ground lying in or near *Coveney* aforeſaid, called *Aſhwell* Moor or *Sedge* Fen, four hundred twenty-three Acres, abutting Eaſtward upon *Pye* Moor, Weſtward upon the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Coveney* called *Hale* Fen, and Northward upon Weſt Fen in *Downham* aforeſaid.

423 0 0

Out of the ſeveral Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Coveney* aforeſaid, called the Great Dams, one hundred fifty-seven Acres, three Roods and Ten Perches; (that is to ſay) out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of *John Davies*, three Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the North-weſt End thereof; out of the ſeveral Fen

Fen

Fen Ground of *Thomas Whine*, Junior, three Acres, one Rood and twenty-four Perches at the South-east End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *William Smith*, two Acres, three Roods and thirty-six Perches at the South-west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Watson*, three Acres, three Roods and twenty Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Watson*, two Acres, three Roods and thirty Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Joan Pope*, Widow, ten Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Linwood*, eighteen Acres and fifteen Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of

out of the severall Fen Ground of *Thomas Winter*, adjoining to *Coveney* Lode, nine Acres at the North-east Side thereof; out of the severall Fen Ground of *Robert Matthews*, eight Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the North Side thereof; out of the severall Fen Ground of *Humberstone March*, Esq; abutting upon *Coveney* Lode and the Way leading unto *Biall* Fen, eighteen Acres and twenty Perches at the South-east End thereof; one intire Fen Ground of *William Sharp*, Gent. lying between *Biall* Fen and the Way leading from *Biall* Fen to *Coveney*, containing sixteen Acres and two Roods; out of the severall Fen Ground of *Peter Rider*, one Acre and thirty Perches at the South-west End thereof; out of the severall Fen Ground of *John Whinn*, three Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the East End thereof; one intire severall Fen Ground, lying between *Biall* Fen and the Ground of *Robert Andrews*, containing fourteen Acres and two Roods; and out of the severall Fen Ground of *Peter Andrews*, sixteen Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East End thereof.

157 3 10

the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Andrew Neale*, three Roods and twenty Perches at the North End thereof; out of the adjoining several Ground of *Thomas Crabbe*, one Acre and twenty Perches at the West End thereof next *Welney* River; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Vernell*, one Acre and fifteen Perches at the North Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Day* adjoining unto Bell Croft, five Acres, three Roods and twenty-five Perches at the South Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground late of *Jane Chambers*, two Acres, two Roods and thirty Perches at the Eastern Corner thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *William Smith*, one Acre, three Roods and fifteen Perches at the South Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *George Wilson*,

Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Robert Aspland*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty-five Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Millop*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty-five Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Robert Groom*, two Acres, one Rood and twenty-five Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of Sir *Miles Sandys*, Knight and Baronet, six Acres and fifteen Perches at the North End of the Ground adjoining to New Dike; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Millop*, six Acres, one Rood and ten Perches at the South-east Side thereof abutting upon New Dike; out of the several Fen Ground of *Henry Meadows*, seven Acres, two Roods and thirty Perches at the West Side of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Robert Alexander*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty Perches at the East Side thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *William*

Haukins, two Acres and ten Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Crabbe*, adjoining to the Ground called the Common Acre, three Acres at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Milfop* the Elder, adjoining to Archdeacon Croft, three Acres and one Rood at the South End of the same Ground abutting upon *Welney* River; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Richard White*, adjoining to the aforementioned Ground of *Thomas Milfop*, one Acre, one Rood and fifteen Perches at the South-east Corner of the same Ground next *Welney* River; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *William Wright*, three Acres and three Roods on the West Side thereof adjoining to the Ground

Roods and twenty Perches at the South-east Side of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Richard Mares*, one Acre, one Rood and twenty Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Sharp*, three Acres, two Roods and twenty Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Wilson*, near adjoining to the Fen Ground called the Hundred Acres, three Acres and one Rood at the East Side thereof; out of the adjoining Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Milfop*, nine Acres, one Rood and twelve Perches at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Richard Ward*, three Acres at the East Part thereof; out of the several Ground of *Robert Lukin*, Esq; being Part of the Ground called the Hundred Acres, fourteen Acres at the West Side thereof; out of the several Ground of *Widow Crab*, being also Part of the Ground called the Hundred Acres, sixteen Acres and three Roods at the West Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Cole*, Gent. adjoining to the Ground called *Garners*, seven Acres,

Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the East Part thereof abutting upon *Welney River*; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *William Johnson*, four Acres and two Roods at the North-west Corner thereof abutting upon *Welney River*; out of the several Fen Grounds of ——— *Goats*, Yeoman, adjoining to the Common Acre, three Roods and ten Perches at the North-west Side thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Day*, adjoining to the common Acre, one Acre, two Roods and twenty Perches at the South-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Plumme* and *Thomas Clarke*, one Acre and ten Perches at the South End thereof next the Wood Grounds of *Apshall Farm*; out of the several Fen Grounds of *Samuel Kinswick*, at the South End thereof, one Acre,

End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Boughton*, three Roods and twenty Perches at the North-west Part of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Glasier*, one Acre and thirty-five Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Millop*, called *Whinne-bush* Croft, three Acres and twenty Perches at the North-west Part thereof; and out of the several Ground called *Cambridge* Crofts, eight Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the West Side thereof abutting upon *Welney* River and the *Mare* Fen.

700 0 0

Out of the several Fen Ground of or belonging to *Thomas Gibbon*, Esq; lying between the common Fen called *Whelp* Moor, and the River of *Brandon*, one hundred and ninety Acres at the South End thereof abutting upon the Fen Grounds called *Redmore* Grounds.

190 0 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds called *Redmore* Grounds, lying between the said common Fen called *Whelpmore* and the River of *Brandon*, one hundred twenty-six Acres at the South Part

Redmore
Grounds.

Out of the several Fen
 Grounds of *Wicham* aforesaid,
 called *Wicham* Mead Lands,
 thirty Acres and two Roods;
 (that is to say) out of the several
 Fen Grounds of *George Peacock*,
Thomas Gooday and *John Merrell*,
 three Acres and one Rood, as the
 same is lockspitted, divided and
 set out at the West End of the
 same Grounds abutting upon
Mepall Gaul Fen; out of the
 Lots or Doles lying between the
 last mentioned Grounds and the
 Lot or Dole of *John Belwood*,
 belonging to divers Persons,
 twelve Acres, three Roods and
 ten Perches at the North-west
 End thereof abutting upon *Block*
 Fen; out of the Lots or Doles
 lying between the great Lot of
George Peacock and the old Dairy
 House of *John Merrell*, belong-
 ing unto divers Persons, seven
 Acres, one Rood and thirty

Out of the common Fen Ground of or belonging to *Mepall*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, called *Gaule* Fen, fifty-three Acres abutting upon the North Side of *Bedford* River and upon *Biall* Fen.

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Mepall* aforesaid, called *Widdon*, eight Acres; (that is to say) out of the several Fen Ground of *Robert Brown*, two Roods and two Perches at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of — *Clinch*, lying next but one to the said Ground of *Robert Brown*, three Roods and eighteen Perches at the North-east End thereof next *Wicham* Severals; out of the adjoining several Fen Grounds of *Thomas Whinne*, three Roods and seventeen Perches at the North-east End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of — *Bradford*, Gent. one Rood and thirty-five Perches at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *William Smith*, two Roods and twelve Perches at the Eastern End thereof; out of the adjoining several Fen Ground of *Thomas Aspland*, one Acre at the Eastern End thereof; out of

the several Fen Ground of *John Phippe*, two Roods and two Perches at the Eastern End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *George Aspland*, one Rood and thirty-four Perches at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground in the Occupation of Widow *Smith*, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Edmund Aspland*, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Addams*, three Roods and eight Perches at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Whiting*, two Roods and eight Perches at the East End thereof; and out of the several Fen Ground of *William Whinne*, two Roods and four Perches at the East End thereof.

8 0

Out of the several Fen

Out of the severall Fen
Ground of — *Gederil*, Gent.
lying between *Gaul* Fen and
Wicham Mead Lands, Six Acres
and two Roods at the North
West End thereof.

6 2 0

Out of the severall Fen
Ground of *John Phippe*, lying
in *Mepall* aforesaid, abutting up-
on *Block* Fen, one Acre and
twenty-two Perches at the South
End thereof.

1 0 22

Out of the severall Fen
Ground of — *Wigmore*, Gent.
lying in *Mepall* aforesaid and
joining unto *Block* Fen, one Acre,
two Roods and thirty Perches at
the North-east End thereof.

1 2 30

Out of the severall Fen
Ground of *Thomas Aspland*, lying
in *Mepall* aforesaid, adjoining
also unto *Block* Fen, one Acre
and one Rood, and twenty-four
Perches at the North End
thereof.

1 1 24

Out of the severall or late in-
closed Fen Grounds of *Mepall*
aforesaid, called *Block* Fen or
Block Moor, lying on the North
Side of *Bedford* River, one hun-
dred thirty-nine Acres and two
Roods; (that is to say) out of
the Grounds of *Thomas Whinne*,
and divers others, lying together
undivided, adjoining unto North
Fen

**Mepall
Severals.**

Fen in *Sutton*, fourteen Acres, three Roods and five Perches abutting upon *Bedford* River aforeſaid; one intire Fen Ground of *John Whinne*, abutting upon *Sutton* North Fen, containing one Acre and two Roods; out of the ſeveral Fen Grounds of *Thomas Aſpland*, *John Adams*, *James Adcroft*, *Richard Holding*, *William Bird* and *Widow Ratham*, adjoining unto *Sutton* North Fen, eleven Acres, three Roods and ten Perches, as the ſame is proportionably ſet out and lockſpitted, at the Weſt Ends of the ſame Grounds next *Sutton* North Fen aforeſaid; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Thomas Aſpland* the Elder, adjoining to *Sutton* North Fen, three Acres and thirty Perches at the North Side thereof; out of the ſeveral Fen Ground of *Widow Broſem* adjoining up-

tionably set out, lockspitted and divided from every of the said Grounds; out of the several Fen Ground of — *Wigmore*, Gent. abutting upon *Bedford* River and the Way in Block Fen, one Acre abutting upon *Bedford* River aforesaid; out of the several Fen Ground of *Mercy Carter*, Widow, lying between *Fur* Fen and the Way in Block Fen, eighteen Acres and fifteen Perches at the North End of the same Grounds; out of the several Fen Ground of *George Wabie*, adjoining unto *Fur* Fen, three Acres at the East End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *George Aspland*, adjoining upon two Fen Grounds of Widow *Ratbam*, two Acres, three Roods and thirty-two Perches; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Whinne*, lying between the Grounds of *Richard Cooper* and *John Adams*, three Acres at the West End of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground of *John Adams*, lying between the Grounds of *Thomas Whinne* and *William Whinne*, three Acres and ten Perches at the North Side thereof; out of the next adjoining several Fen Ground now or late of *William Whinne*, three Acres

Acres and one Rood at the East End thereof; out of the next adjoining several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Whinne*, three Acres, two Roods and eighteen Perches; and out of the several Fen Grounds now or late of *Richard Cooper*, adjoining upon Block Fen in *Chateresse*, six Acres, two Roods and thirty-six Perches at the North Side thereof.

139 2

Sutton in the Isle.

Out of the several Fen Ground called Middle Moor, lying in *Sutton* in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, thirty-seven Acres abutting upon the South Side of *Bedford* River.

37 0

Out of the Fen Grounds in *Sutton* aforefaid, called North Mead-lands and South Mead-lands, one hundred seventy-five Acres, abutting upon the Middle Moor aforefaid and upon the North Side of the said new River

175 0

Out of four other antient several Fen Grounds in *Sutton* aforefaid, lying near *Eritb* Causey, called Cocks Nests, four Acres and three Roods; (that is to say) out of the Grounds belonging to the Dean and Chapter of *Ely*, one Acre, two Roods and twenty Perches at the South Side thereof; out of the Ground of — *Drury*, Gent. one Acre, two Roods and ten Perches at the South Side thereof; out of the Ground of — *Carter*, Gent. three Roods and twenty Perches at the South Side thereof; and out of the Grounds of *John Taylour*, two Roods and thirty Perches at the South Side thereof.

4 3 0

Out of the several or late inclosed Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Sutton* aforefaid, lying on both Sides of the said new River called *Bedford* River, eight hundred sixty and two Acres; (that is to say) out of the several and late inclosed Fen Grounds lying on the North Side of the said new River, six hundred Acres; (*viz.*) out of the several Fen Grounds called *Little Halwood*, forty-three Acres, one Rood and fifteen Perches at the South Part of the same Ground, abutting

abutting upon the Fen Ground
 called North Mead-lands and the
 West Water; out of the several
 and late inclosed Fen Grounds
 lying in West Fen on the North
 Side of *Bedford* River, being
 one hundred and Sixteen in
 Number, two hundred fifty-
 eight Acres, three Roods and
 eleven Perches, as the same is
 already by Lockspits or small
 Trenches proportionally set out
 and divided from every of the
 said hundred and sixteen several
 Fen Grounds; out of the several
 and late inclosed Fen Grounds
 lying in Middle Fen, on the
 North Side of the said River,
 being eleven in Number, twenty-

600

three Acres and eleven Perches,
 as the same is also already by
 Lockspits or small Trenches pro-
 portionally set out and divided
 from every of the said eleven
 several Fen Grounds; out of the

Out of the several or late inclosed Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Sutton* aforesaid, lying on the South Side of *Bedford* River, being one hundred twenty-two in Number, two hundred sixty-two Acres, as the same is already by Lockspits or small Trenches proportionally set out, covered and divided from every one of the said one hundred twenty-two inclosed Grounds ; (that is to say) out of the inclosed Fen Grounds called *Tween* Ditches, being eight in Number, fourteen Acres, as the same is proportionally set out as aforesaid ; out of the late inclosed Grounds called *Manyman's* Doles, lying between *Sutton* Causey and the Way leading to South Mead-lands on the South Side of *Bedford* River, being four in Number, five Acres, two Roods and twenty-four Perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid. Out of the late inclosed Fen Grounds, lying between South Mead-lands, the said Grounds called *Tween* Ditches, the said Grounds called *Manyman's* Doles, *Sutton*, *Gravell*, the hard Lands of *Sutton*, the Grounds of divers Men in South Fen lying undivided, the Ground of *Robert Gunton*

Sutton,
South of
Bedford
River.

Gunton abutting upon *Haddenham*
 Fen, and the common Fen
 Ground of *Haddenham* called
 small Fen, being fifty-seven in
 Number, ninety-one Acres, one
 Rood and thirteen Perches, as
 the same is also set out and di-
 vided as aforesaid; out of the
 late inclosed Fen Grounds, lying
 between the Fen Ground of *Ro-
 bert Peacock*, abutting upon
Haddenham Common aforesaid;
 the several Fen Ground of —
Jederel, Gent. lying in South
 Fen aforesaid, the hard Lands of
Sutton, the common Fen Grounds
 of *Wentworth*, and the said Com-
 mon Fen of *Haddenham* called
 Small Fen, being twelve in Num-
 ber, seventy-two Acres and ten
 Perches, as the same is also set
 out and divided as aforesaid; out
 of the late inclosed Fen Grounds
 lying between *Sutton* Gravel,
 North Mead-lands, and the

the South-west Part thereof; out of the late inclosed Fen Grounds lying in West Fen, on the said South Side of *Bedford* River, being fourteen in Number, twenty-two Acres, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; out of the late inclosed Fen Grounds, lying between West Fen aforesaid, the *Gaultway* and the hard Lands of *Sutton*, being four in Number, six Acres and twenty Perches, as the same is also set out and divided as aforesaid; and out of the late inclosed Fen Grounds lying between the said *Gaultway*, the said new River called *Bedford* River, the Grounds of *Mepall*, and the hard Lands of *Sutton*, being thirteen in Number, twenty-three Acres and twenty Perches, as the same is also divided and set out as aforesaid.

262 o o

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Chartresse*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, three thousand eight hundred and twenty-six Acres; (that is to say) out of the common Fen called *Normore*, one thousand six hundred and ten Acres, abutting upon *Dodington Leame* and the

N hard

Chartresse.

hard Lands of *Honey*; out of the Common Fen called *Langwood* Fen, nine hundred and twenty Acres, adjoining upon *Block* Fen, and the Fen called *Wenney* or *Whinney* Fen, and the Mead Lands of *Wicham*; out of the said common Fen Ground called *Wenney* or *Whinney* Fen, three hundred Acres abutting upon *Langwood* Fen and *Block* Fen aforesaid; out of the common Fen Ground called *Rough West Moor*, five hundred ninety-six Acres at the North Part of the same Fen, abutting upon the common Fen called *Beefelings*, and the hard Lands called *Willy* Heath; and out of the common Fen Grounds called *Curse* and *Gore*, four hundred Acres, abutting upon *Dodington Leame* and the Gravel Way near the old Eawe leading unto *Dodington*.

3826 00

Out of the several Fen

Out of the Fen Ground in the several Possession of *Besteney Betts*, Esq; called *Block Fen*, eighty-nine Acres and a half, abutting upon *Wicham* Meadlands and *Langwood* Fen aforesaid.

89 2 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds in *Chartresse* aforesaid, called the old *Hanes*, one hundred and five Acres, one Rood and twenty Perches, as the same is already proportionally by Lock-spits or small Trenches divided and set out ; (that is to say) out of the Ground called the Town Meadow, two Acres, two Roods and thirty-three Perches at the South-east Part thereof; out of the Ground of *Besteney Bruce*, three Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the North-east Part thereof; out of the Ground of Widow *Matthewes*, four Acres, two Roods and thirty Perches at the South End thereof; out of the Ground of — *Trice*, Gent. called *Pickerell's* Fen, four Acres and one Rood at the South End thereof; out of the Ground of *Thomas Keeto*, two Acres, two Roods and five Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the Ground of *John Legerton*, two Acres, three Roods and

N 2 thirty-

thirty-two Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the Ground of *William Dring*, four Acres and six Perches at the North-east Part thereof; out of the Ground of *Richard Reade* and *William Dring*, two Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the North-east Part thereof; the intire Fen Ground of *Robert Vintner*, Gent. lying between the Grounds of *Besteney Bruce* aforesaid and *Richard Campe*, containing eleven Acres, three Roods and twenty Perches; out of the said Ground of *Thomas Campe*, one Acre and two Roods at the East End thereof; out of the Ground of *John Tye*, one Acre and two Roods at the East Part thereof; out of the Ground of *Robert Rash*, *Reynold Walsbam* and *Thomas Curde*, five Acres, two Roods and fifteen Perches, set out as aforesaid. at the East

and one Rood, set out as afore-
 said, at the East Ends of the
 said Grounds; out of the adjoining
 Grounds of *Martin Bend*
 and *Richard Cooper*, four Acres
 and one Rood, set out as afore-
 said, at the East Ends of the
 said Grounds; out of the Grounds
 of *Richard Lambe*, *John Reade*,
Thomas Wright, *Thomas Rose*, and
John Reason, seven Acres and
 ten Perches, set out as afore-
 said, at the East Ends of the said
 Grounds; out of the Ground of
 — *Castle*, Gent. lying next
 the several Ground of — *Wen-*
dye, Esq; in *Abbots Holwood*
 afore-
 said, nine Acres, two Roods
 and ten Perches at the North-
 east Corner thereof; out of the
 Ground of *Thomas Reade*, one
 Acre, three Roods and thirty-two
 Perches at the West Part thereof;
 one intire Fen Ground of *Rich-*
ard Dring, lying between the
 last-mentioned Grounds of *Tho-*
mas Reade and the Ground of
Thomas Campe, abutting upon
 the said several Ground of —
Wendye afore-
 said, containing se-
 ven Acres, two Roods and ten
 Perches; out of the Ground of
John Rutter, six Acres, two
 Roods and five Perches at
 the East Side thereof, abutting
 N 3 upon

upon the Ground of *Thomas Campe*; and out of the said Ground of *Thomas Campe*, lying next the several Fen Grounds of *Sutton* called the *Middle*, eight Acres and three Roods, abutting upon the said Grounds in *Sutton*.

105 1 20

Out of the several Fen Grounds in *Chartresse* aforesaid, called *Honey Fen*, forty Acres at the South Part of the same Grounds, abutting upon *Langwood Fen* and *Biall Fen*.

40 0 00

Out of the several Fen Grounds in *Chartresse* aforesaid, called the *Restiges*, forty Acres and twenty Perches; (that is to say) one intire several Fen Ground of *Besteney Betts*, Esq; abutting upon *Beefeling's Fen* in *Dodington*, containing twenty-seven Acres; out of the Ground of the said *Besteney Betts*, called the *Mile*, four Acres and sixteen Per-

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Dodington, March, Benwick* and *Wimblington*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, or to some or one of them, seven thousand seven hundred ninety-seven Acres; (that is to say) out of the common Fen called *Pulver Fen*, and *Turfe Fen*, one thousand three hundred Acres at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the Fen called *Beefeling's Fen*; out of the said common Fen called *Beefeling's Fen*, three hundred forty-four Acres at the South End thereof, abutting upon West Water; out of the common Fen called *Dikemoore*, seven hundred fifty-six Acres, abutting upon the West Water and the Bank called *Copolder Bank*; out of the common Fen Grounds called *Stoney Fen* and *Block Fen*, one thousand and seven hundred Acres at the East Part thereof next unto *Maney*; out of the common Fen Ground called *Burrough Moor*, five hundred Acres, abutting upon *Ransome Moor* and the River *Nene*; out of the common Fen called *Whitemoor*, one thousand Acres at the North-west Part thereof, abutting upon Plant Water and the

N 4

*Dodington
Wimblington,
March
and Benwick.*

the common Fens of *Wisbiech*; out of the common Fen called *Wick* Fen, two hundred Acres at the South Part thereof, abutting upon *Dodington Leame* and the common Fen called *Stowe* Fen; out of the common Fen called the *Middle*, two hundred Acres, abutting upon Plant Water and the River *Neane*; out of the common Fen called great *Binnie Moor*, four hundred and fifty Acres at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the Fen called *Gray's* Fen, and the Lake called the *Old Chair*; out of the common Fen called *Creek* Fen, four hundred and sixty Acres at the North-east Part thereof, abutting Northward upon the common Fen called *Ladus* Fen, and upon the several Fen Grounds of *Robert Peyton*, Esq; and out of the common Fens called *Horse Moor* and little *Binnie Moor*, eight hun-

7797 0 0

Close, the said Ground called West-fen Close, Whoredome Lake, and *Whittlesea* Dike, two thousand four hundred eighty-three Acres at the South Part of the same Ground, abutting Eastward upon *Plant Water* and the River *Neane*, Southward upon *Whittlesea* Dike, called at that Place Saddlebow Mile, and Westward upon Whoredome Lake, West-fen Close, and the new Dike aforesaid,

2483 0 0

Out of the imbanked several Fen Ground late of *Robert Peyton*, Esq; one thousand five hundred and fifty Acres, (that is to say) out of the several imbanked fen Ground called *Stoney* Fen, one thousand three hundred twenty-five Acres at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the Fen called *Chaser* Fen, the the Fens of *Money* called the *Dams*, and the common Fen called *Stoney* Fen; and out of the imbanked several Fen Ground now or late in the Occupation of *William Samus*, Doctor of the Law, called *Morse* Moor, two hundred twenty-five Acres at the North East Part thereof, abutting upon the Fens called *Gray's* Fen and great *Binnie* Moore.

1550 0 0

Out

Out of the other several Fen
 Grounds of or belonging to *Dod-*
dington, March, Benwick and
Wimblington aforesaid, nine hun-
 dred and nineteen Acres; (that
 is to say) out of the several Fen
 Grounds of or belonging to *Ro-*
bert Peyton, Esq; one hundred
 thirty-three Acres and twenty
 Perches; (*viz.*) one intire Fen
 lying in *Norwood* Severals, abut-
 ting upon the several Fen Ground
 of *William Wrag*, containing one
 hundred and three Acres; one } 133 0 0
 other intire Fen Ground, abut-
 ting upon the Bank of *Walder-*
sey and a several Ground belong-
 ing to *Henry Finimore*, contain-
 ing eighteen Acres and three
 Roods; and out of a several Fen
 Ground adjoining to the Part
 of *Whitemoore* called *Mary's*
Hurne, and the several Fen
 Ground of *Thomas Tyrell, Gent.*
 eleven Acres, one Rood and

■ abutting upon *Spaper's Drove* and
 ■ *Waldersley Bank*, containing forty-
 ■ nine Acres, and one Rood and five
 ■ Perches; and out of the several
 ■ Fen Ground lying on the East
 ■ Side of *Norwood Causey*, twenty
 ■ Acres at the West End of the
 ■ same Ground, abutting upon the
 ■ several Fen Ground now or late
 ■ of Widow *Southwell*. 69 1 05

■ Out of the several Fen
 ■ Grounds of or belonging to
 ■ *Henry Finimora, Gent.* lying in
 ■ *March* aforesaid, forty-two Acres
 ■ and two Roods at the North-
 ■ east Side of the Grounds called
 ■ *Otter Holts*, lying near Plant
 ■ Water, abutting upon Plant Wa-
 ■ ter and the several Fen Ground of
 ■ *Thomas Shephard*. 42 2 00

■ Out of the several Fen
 ■ Grounds of or belonging to
 ■ *Thomas Tyrell, Gent.* forty-five
 ■ Acres, one Rood and ten
 ■ Perches; (*viz.*) one inire feve-
 ■ ral Fen Ground abutting upon
 ■ Plant Water and West Fen, con-
 ■ taining thirty-five Acres and two
 ■ Roods; and out of his several
 ■ Ground lying in *Norwood* Seve-
 ■ rals, betwixt two several Grounds
 ■ of *Robert Peyton* aforesaid, nine
 ■ Acres, three Roods and ten
 ■ Perches at the West Side thereof. 45 8 10

Out of the several Fen Ground called the Hundred Acres, lying near unto *Maney*, twenty-five Acres at the South End thereof, next the several Grounds of *Maney* aforesaid. } 25 0 00

Out of the several Fen Ground called *Graye's Fen*, forty-four Acres at the North End thereof, abutting upon great *Binnie Moor*. } 44 0 00

Out of the several Fen Ground called *Reade's Fen*, thirty Acres, abutting upon *Well Pingle* and the River *Neane*. } 30 0 00

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Robert Pierſon*, twenty-one Acres, one Rood and thirty-five Perches; (*viz.*) out of the Ground lying near unto *Hobbs Dike*, eight Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the South End thereof, abutting upon the old Drove-way; and out of a several Fen Ground of } 21 1 35

Out of the several Fen Ground of *William Wragge*, lying near unto *Grainford*, nine Acres and three Roods and twenty-eight Perches at the East Side thereof.

9 3 20

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Peter Williams*, thirty-four Acres, two Roods and ten Perches; (*viz.*) one intire several Fen Ground lying within a several Fen Ground of *Robert Peyton* aforesaid, in *Norwood* Severals, containing eleven Acres; and out of one other Ground of him the said *Peter Williams*, lying in the Fen called *Norwood* Severals aforesaid, abutting upon the old Drove-way, twenty-three Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the East Part thereof, abutting upon the last mentioned Ground of *Robert Peyton* aforesaid.

34 2 10

Out of the several Fen Ground of *John Mobbe*, abutting upon *Waldersey* Bank, ten Acres and three Roods at the North End thereof next the said Bank.

10 3 00

Out of the several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *John Pierson*, twenty-seven Acres and two Roods; (*viz.*) out of the several Fen Ground lying near

near

near unto Great Cross, five Acres
and two Roods at the North
Part thereof; and out of one
other several Fen Ground in the
Occupation of him the said *John*
Pierſon, abutting upon Plant Wa-
ter and the several Fen Grounds
of *Henry Finimore*, twenty-two
Acres at the West Side thereof,
next the Fen called West Fen.

27 2 0

Out of the several Fen
Ground of *Thomas Shepheard*,
Gent. abutting upon Plant Wa-
ter and the last mentioned feve-
ral Ground of *Henry Finimore*,
fifteen Acres at the West Side
thereof next West Fen afore-
said.

15 0 0

Out of the several Fen
Ground called West-fen Close,
twenty-five Acres at the East
Part thereof next West Fen.

25 0 0

Out of the several Fen
Ground called great *Bradney*
Moor, abutting upon Bishop's

Out of the several Fen Ground in the Tenure or Occupation of *William Sames*, Doctor of the Law, called *Brown's Fen* or *Cooke's Fen*, fifty Acres and twenty Perches at the North-west Part thereof, abutting upon *Glasse Lake* aforesaid. } 50 0 20

Out of nineteen other small
 Several belonging to *Dodington*,
March and *Berwick* aforesaid,
 fifty-three Acres, two Roods and
 thirty-two Perches, as the same
 is already proportionally by Lock-
 spits or small Trenches divided
 and set out from every of the
 said nineteen several Fen Grounds;
 (that is to say) out of the Ground
 of Widow *Cattel*, lying near *Grain-
 ford*, one Acre at the South End
 thereof. Out of the Ground
 of — *Barret*, Gent. called
Mundford's Lands, two Acres,
 one Rood and thirteen Perches
 at the South Side thereof; out
 of the Ground of *Thomas Wal-
 sam*, called also *Mundford's*
Lands, three Acres, two Roods
 and five Perches at the East Part
 thereof, next unto the Drove-
 way; out of the Ground of *Tho-
 mas Emerson*, one Acre, three
 Roods and fifteen Perches at the
 South Side thereof; out of the
 Ground of *John Neale*, two
 Acres, one Rood and twenty
 Perches

Dodington
Small
Severals.

Perches at the North Part thereof; out of the Ground of *Widow Southwald*, adjoining unto *Norwood Causey*, five Acres and twenty Perches at the North Part thereof, abutting upon *Walderssea Bank*; out of the Ground of *William Shepheard*, lying in the severall Fen called *Edmund's* Severals, three Acres and twenty Perches at the South End thereof; out of the Ground late of — *Death*, Yeoman, lying in the Fen called *Joane Sadd's Hole*, two Acres, one Rood and six Perches at the East Part thereof; out of the Ground of *John Shere-man*, lying near *Burrough Moor*, six Acres, three Roods and fifteen Perches at the East End thereof; out of the Ground of *Everard Buckworth*, Esq; lying near *Nuses Green*, three Acres, one Rood and eight Perches at the West Side thereof; out of

three Roods and eight Perches at the West Part thereof, next unto the Common; out of the Ground called *Wisamouth*, four Acres, three Roods and thirty-eight Perches at the North-west End thereof, abutting upon the River *Neane*; out of a Ground near *Benwick* called *Pagdole*, two Acres, three Roods and twenty-four Perches at the North-west End thereof; out of the Ground of *William Smith* in Dike Moor, abutting upon *Beefeling's* Lode and the West Water, four Acres at the East End thereof; out of the Ground of *Samuel Wright*, Doctor of Divinity, lying in Dike Moor afore said, three Roods and ten Perches at the North-east End thereof; out of the Ground of Widow *Cole*, lying near *Benwick* Meer, one Acre at the North End thereof next West Water; and out of the Ground of *Robert Burroughs*, lying near *Benwick*, one Acre and twenty Perches at the North-east Side thereof, abutting upon the River *Neane*.

53 2 32

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Witlesey*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, five thousand five hundred twenty-seven Acres; (that is to say) the

Witlesey

intire common Fen called North Fen, containing one thousand seventy-eight Acres, abutting Westward upon the Mow Fens of *Witlesey*, called *Northey*, Northward upon the several Fen Grounds called *Prior's* Fens, Eastward upon *Delfe* Dike, and Southward upon *Morton's* Leam; the intire common Fen, lying between the New Drain or Way extending from *Witlesey* to the hard Lands of *Upwood*, *Witlesey* Dike, and the new Cut or Drain called *Bevel's* Leam, containing two thousand seventy-eight Acres, abutting Westward upon the said new Drain or Way Northward upon *Witlesey* Dike, and South-eastward upon the said new Drain called *Bevel's* Leam; the intire common Fen called South Pingle, containing fifty-nine Acres, abutting Westward upon the hard Lands of *Lipney*. North-

upon South Lake or *Sterne Ea*, Eastward upon the Dike, extending from *Morton's Leam*, near Mid-fen Tree, unto South Lake or *Sterne Ea* aforefaid, and Northward upon *Morton's Leam* aforefaid; out of the common Fen Grounds lying near unto *Eastrea* called *Eastrea Fen* or the *Wipe*, nine hundred thirty and two Acres, abutting Westward upon *Beggars Dike*, Southward upon the new Drain called *Bevel's Leam*, Eastward upon the new Dike extending from West-fen Close unto South Lake or *Sterne Ea*, and Northward upon South Lake or *Sterne Ea* aforefaid; and out of the common Fen Ground called the *Moor*, six hundred forty-fix Acres at the North-west Part thereof, abutting Westward upon *Sted's Dike*, and Northward upon the faid New Drain called *Bevel's Leam*.

Out of the several Fen Ground of or belonging to *Witlesey* aforefaid, called *Prior's Fens*, one hundred eighty-nine Acres, as the same is already divided and inclosed from the Residue of the faid Fens; (that is to say) out of the Ground of *Richard Auldfeld*, fifty Acres at the South-east Part thereof; out

5527 o o

Witlesey
Severals.

of the Ground of Widow *Pennie*, two Acres, one Rood and twenty-eight Perches at the South Part thereof; out of the Grounds of *Henry Prat*, Gent. adjoining to the Grounds of *Richard Auldfield* aforeſaid, called *Aſhe Fen*, forty-seven Acres, three Roods and twenty Perches at the South-west End thereof, abutting upon North Fen; out of the Grounds of *John Elkin*, Gent. forty-four Acres, three Roods, and two Perches at the South-east Part of the ſame Grounds; out of the Ground of — *Danſon*, Gent. three Acres, one Rood, and fifteen Perches at the West End thereof; out of the Ground of — *Summer*, Gent. three Acres, one Rood and fifteen Perches at the East End thereof; out of the Ground of — *Armeſted*, Gent. eleven Acres, three Roods and thirty Perches at the West End

Out of the severall Fen
 Grounds of or belonging to
Stanground in the County of
Huntingdon, called *Flegge Fen* and
White Fen Close, lying in the
 said Isle of *Ely* and County of
Cambridge, one hundred twenty-
 seven Acres, abutting Northward
 upon *Morton's Leam*, and East-
 ward and Southward upon the
 severall Grounds of *Witlesey*.

Stang-
ground.

127 0 0

Out of the mowing Fen
 Ground belonging to *Stanground*
 afore said, called *Nortbea*, lying
 in the said Isle of *Ely* and Coun-
 ty of *Cambridge*, sixty-four Acres,
 as the same is already divided and
 inclosed at the South-east Part of
 the same Ground.

64 0 0

Out of the demean Fen
 Grounds of or belonging to the
 Lordship of *Thorney*, in the said
 Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cam-*
bridge, four thousand Acres, abut-
 ting Eastward upon the common
 Fen of *Wisbich* called High Fen,
 and the common Fen Grounds
 of *Sutton in Holland*, Southward
 upon the Fen Grounds of *Wi-*
tlesey, called *Bassen-Hall Moor*,
 and Northward upon the South
Ea Bank.

Thorney.

4000 0 0

Sutton in Holland. Out of the common Fen
 Grounds of or belonging to
Sutton in Holland, in the County
 of *Lincoln*, lying in the said Isle
 of *Ely* and County of *Cam-*
bridge, four hundred and forty
 Acres, abutting Eastward upon
 the common Fen of *Wisbich*,
 Southward upon the Lake called
 the *Wride*, and Westward upon
 the Fen Ground of *Thorney* called
Knarre Fen.

440 0 0

Wisbich. Out of the common Fen
 Grounds of or belonging to
Wisbich, in the said Isle of *Ely*
 and County of *Cambridge*, two
 thousand six hundred forty-
 eight Acres; (that is to say) one
 intire Fen Ground, lying near
Guy Hurne, between *Morton's*
Leam, the new Drain called
Bevel's Leam, *Sterne Ea* or South
 Lake, and the common Fens in
Willesea called the Middle, con-

11 Fen Ground, containing one thousand seven hundred thirty-two Acres, lying between the said Five-and-twenty Foot Drain, *Knarre* Lake, and the Drain or Way leading from *Pekirke* Meadow unto *Guy* Hurne. } 2648 o o

Out of the several Fen Ground belonging to *Wishich* afore said, called *Tbrocken* Holt, fourscore Acres at the West End of the same Ground abutting Northward upon South *Ea* Bank. } 80 o o

Out of the common Fen Ground of or belonging to *Elme*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, lying between *Coldbam* Bank and *Elme* Leam, fifty Acres at the South-west Part thereof, abutting upon *Elme* Leam and a several Fen Ground of *Robert Peyton*, Esq; called great Sedge Fen. } Elme.
50 o o

Out of the several Fen Ground in *Elme* afore said, belonging unto the Bishop of *Ely*, lying between *Elme* Leam and the old *Ea*, thirty Acres, abutting upon the South-east End of the common Fen Ground of *Elme* afore said and the said several Ground of *Robert Peyton* afore said. } 30 o o

Out of the several Fen Ground of *Robert Peyton* afore-said, called great Sedge Fen, adjoining unto *Elme* Common afore-said, one hundred and Seventy Acres, abutting upon *Coldham* Bank, the said Ground of the Lord Bishop of *Ely*, and the said common Fen of *Elme*.

170 0 0

Ladus Fen. **Out of** the common Fen Ground called *Ladus* Fen, and Lake Fen, lying within the Hundred of *Wisbich*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, six hundred and fourscore Acres at the South-west End thereof, abutting upon Part of the common Fen of *Dodington* and *March*, called *Creek* Fen, lying between *Elme* Leam and the River *Neane*.

680 0 0

Eausy Moor.

Out of the common Fen Ground called *Eausy* Moor, lying within the said Hundred of *Wisbich*, in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, bounded with the River *Neane*, *Wellney* River, *Darcie* Lode, and the Lake called the Old Chair, one thousand nine hundred sixty-four Acres at the North-west Part thereof, abutting upon the said Lake called the Old Chair, the River *Neane*, and the Dike called the New Dike.

1964 0 0

Out

Out of the Common Fen Ground called *Tuck's-Moor* Turne, or *Well Pingle*, lying within the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, between the said Lake called the Old Chair and *Read's Fen* in *March*, thirty-six Acres, abutting upon the Old Chair aforesaid and upon the River *Neave*.

36 o o

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Upwell*, *Outwell* and *Wellney*, in the County of *Norfolk*, and in the said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, or some or one of them, one thousand five hundred and forty Acres; (that is to say) out of the common Fen Ground called *Neat Moor*, and the Lots, seven hundred and fifty Acres at the East End of the same Ground next unto *Well Creek*, abutting Southward upon the Fens called *Londoners Fens*, Northward upon *London Lode*, the Fen Ground in the Occupation of *Tristrem Diamond*, Gent. and the common Fen called *Outwell Pingle*; out of the common Fen Grounds called *Shevens*, two hundred Acres at the East Side thereof, abutting upon *Causey Dike* and *Hacket Way*; out of the common Fen Grounds

Upwell;
Outwell
and *Well-*
ney.

Grounds called Common Piece and *Hale* Fen, five hundred and ninety Acres; (*viz.*) the said intire Fen called the Common Piece; and the Residue, being four hundred fifty-six Acres, out of the said common Fen called *Hale* Fen, at the North-east Part thereof, abutting upon *Bedford* River and the several Ground belonging unto *Wellney* Chappel, called Sedge Fen. 1540 0 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds called *Londoners* Fens, being late Parcel of the common Fens of *Upwell* and *Wellney* afore-said, eight hundred Acres, as the same is already set out, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from the Residue of the said Fens, in Manner and Form following; (that is to say) one intire Fen Ground belonging to Sir *Robert Bell*, Knight, called *Lilly-pools*, con-

Acres and three Roods; out of
 one other Ground of him the
 said Sir *Robert Bell*, lying be-
 tween *Cady's Fen* and *London*
Lode aforefaid, forty-two Acres
 and three Roods at the West
 End thereof; out of the feveral
 Fen Ground now or late of Sir
Lewis Tresham, Knight, lying
 between *Cady's Fen* and *Wick*
Fen, ninety-three Acres and one
 Rood at the South End thereof,
 abutting upon the feveral Fen
 Ground late of — *Fincham*,
 Gent. in the Occupation of him
 the said Sir *Lewis Tresham*; out
 of the feveral Fen Ground late in
 the Tenure or Occupation of Sir
William Cokayne, Knight, adjoin-
 ing unto *Cady's Fen* aforefaid,
 and the feveral Grounds now or
 late of Sir *John Wats*, Knight,
 one hundred seventy-one Acres
 at the South Part thereof, abut-
 ting upon the Ground of *Thomas*
Parlet; out of the feveral
 Grounds now or late of Sir *John*
Wats, Knight, three hundred
 fifty-two Acres and one Rood,
 abutting upon *Maid Lode*, the
 forementioned Ground late of Sir
William Cokayne, and the Drove-
 way leading through the Middle
 of the said Grounds of him the
 said Sir *John Wats*; out of the
 feveral

several Fen Ground of *Thomas Fincham*, Gent. lying between *Cady's Fen* and *Wick Fen*, eleven Acres and three Roods, abutting on both Sides of *Bedford River*; out of the several Fen Ground late of — *Fincham*, Gent. now in the Occupation of the said Sir *Lewis Tresham*, thirteen Acres and one Rood at the West Side thereof, abutting upon *Cady's Fen*; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Hamman le Strange*, Esq; abutting upon *Cady's Fen* and *Maid Lode*, twelve Acres at the East Side thereof next *Bedford River*; and out of the several Fen Ground called *Hen Middle*, abutting upon *Maid Lode*, on the North Side of *Bedford River*, ten Acres, adjoining to the Fen Grounds now or late of Sir *John Wats* aforesaid, and upon the several Grounds of *Thomas Parlet*, Yeoman

800 0 0

Out of the Fen Ground called
Knobbals, twenty-eight Acres;
 (viz.) one intire Piece thereof,
 lying on the North Side of *Bed-*
ford River, containing nine Acres;
 Out of the Ground late in the
 Occupation of *Edward Lech-*
land, Esq; or his Assigns, lying
 on the South Side of *Bedford* Ri-
 ver, ten Acres, abutting upon
 the said River; and out of the
 Residue of the said Ground called
Knobbals, nine Acres at the East
 End thereof, abutting upon
Wick Fen and *Reed's* Fen; out
 of the several Fen Ground called
Sedge Fen, one hundred and fifty
 Acres; (viz.) one intire Piece
 thereof lying on the North Side
 of *Bedford* River, containing ele-
 ven Acres; and out of the Re-
 sidue of the said Fen one hun-
 dred thirty-nine Acres at the
 South-west Part thereof, abut-
 ting upon *Hale* Fen and *Bedford*
 River aforesaid.

178 0 0

Out of the several Fen
 Grounds belonging to *Outwell*
 aforesaid, lying between *Popham*
Eau and New Dike, sixty-five
 Acres, as the same is already
 proportionally set out, and by
 Lockpits or small Trenches se-
 vered and divided from every of
 the

the said three several Fen Grounds, in Manner and Form following; (that is to say) out of the several Fen Ground belonging to the Dean and Chapter of *Norwich*, thirty-five Acres at the East End thereof, abutting upon *Neat-Moore* and *Popham Eau* aforesaid; out of the Grounds of *Tristram Diamond*, Gent. twenty-five Acres at the South-east Part thereof, abutting upon *Neat-Moore* aforesaid; and out of the Ground of *Sinolpbus Bell*, Esq; five Acres at the East End thereof, abutting upon the said Grounds of the said *Tristram Diamond*, Gent.

65 0 0

Out of three several Fen Grounds lying in *Ladus Fen*, fifty-two Acres and two Roods, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from every of the said

South Part thereof; and out of the Ground now or late of Sir *William Reade*, Knight, lying near *Newe's Cote*, seventeen Acres and three Roods at the North End thereof.

52 2 0

Out of the several Fen Ground called Farmers Fen, forty-eight Acres at the East Side thereof, abutting upon the common Fen called *Eause Moor*.

48 0 0

Out of the several Fen Ground called *Loveokes*, twenty-one Acres at the North End thereof, abutting upon the Fen called the Common Piece.

21 0 0

Out of nineteen several Fen Grounds, belonging to *Upwell* and *Wellney* aforesaid, or to one of them, lying on the West Side of *Wellney* River, between *Popham's Eau* and *Darcie Lode*, two hundred fifty-two Acres and thirteen Perches, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from every of the said nineteen several Fen Grounds, in Manner and Form following; (that is to say) out of the imbanked several Fen Ground of *John Moyse*, Gent. one hundred and five Acres and thirty-six Perches at the

the South-west Part thereof, abutting upon *Eausie Moor*; out of the imbanked Ground now or late of — *Taylor*, Gent. forty-six Acres, two Roods and twenty Perches at the South Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *William Bellamy*, two Acres and two Roods at the South Part thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *John Bellamy*, two Acres, one Rood and twenty Perches at the West Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of — *Fiske*, Gent. called *Rollingham*, fifteen Acres, two Roods and twenty-two Perches at the West Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of — *Calverley*, Doctor of Divinity, eight Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the South Corner thereof; out of the Ground called *Town Land*, abutting upon the several Grounds

oods and thirty-six Perches;
 t of the Ground now or late
Edmund Man, abutting upon
Jagg's Lake aforesaid, one Acre
 id twenty Perches at the North-
 est Corner thereof; one intire
 round now or late of *Thomas*
lisbe, adjoining to the said
 round of *Edmund Man*, con-
 taining five Acres, three Roods
 nd thirty-six Perches; one other
 ntire Fen Ground now or late
 of *John Bellamy* and *Matibew*
Bellamy, abutting upon *Friday*
Lake, containing four Acres and
 two Roods; one other intire Fen
 Ground now or late of *William*
Reade aforesaid, abutting also
 upon *Friday Lake*, containing
 seven Acres and ten Perches;
 out of the next adjoining Ground
 now or late of *Haman le Strange*,
 Esq; nine Acres, one Rood and
 twenty-two Perches at the East
 Part thereof; one intire Fen
 Ground now or late of *Thomas*
Fincham, adjoining to the last
 mentioned Ground of *Haman le*
Strange aforesaid, containing thir-
 teen Acres and two Roods; out
 of the next adjoining Ground
 now or late of *Roger Prat*, Esq;
 seven Acres and two Roods at
 the South Part thereof; out of
 the Ground now or late of *John*
 P *Gray*,

Gray, one Acre, two Roods and twenty-five Perches at the North Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of — *Reve*, Clerk, three Roods and twelve Perches at the South-west Part thereof; and out of the Ground of *Thomas Crosse*, abutting upon the North Side of *Darcie Lode*, eight Acres, three Roods and thirty Perches at the West End thereof.

Out of fifteen other several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Upwell* and *Wellney*, lying also on the West Side of *Wellney River* aforesaid, between *Darcie Lode* aforesaid and the several Grounds of *Little-port*, lying upon the same River, seventy-three Acres, one Rood and twenty Perches, as the same is already proportionally set out, and by Lockspits or small Trenches severed and divided from every of the said fif-

eight Perches at the South Corner thereof; out of the several Fen Ground called *Lewis Meadow*, seven Acres and twelve Perches at the South-west End thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *Simon Hudson*, eight Acres, three Roods and thirty-eight Perches at the South Part thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *John Standbridge*, five Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East Side thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *Robert Goulden*, three Acres, one Rood and eighteen Perches at the East Corner thereof; out of the Ground of *Everard Buckworth*, Esq; eight Acres at the West Part thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground late of *William Bond*, one Acre, three Roods and ten Perches at the South Corner thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground, now or late of *Thomas Birt*, four Acres, two Roods and six Perches at the West Corner thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *Edward Bond*, one Acre, two Roods and ten Perches at the South-west End thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground now or late of *Francis Waters*, Gent.

five Acres, one Rood and eighteen Perches at the South-west Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *Richard James*, lying near *Wellney*, two Acres, three Roods and thirty-two Perches at the North-west Corner thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *William Gabie* and *John Gabie*, lying on the South Side of *Bedford River*, one Acre and two Roods at the West End thereof; out of the Ground belonging to the Deanary of *Peterborough*, abutting upon *Marmond Meadow*, three Acres, two Roods and eight Perches at the West Part thereof; and out of the said Ground called *Marmond Meadow*, five Acres at the North-west Part thereof.

73 I 20

Out of twenty-three several Fen Grounds belonging to *Upwell* and *Wellney* aforesaid, or to the one of them lying on the

in Manner and Form following;
 (that is to say) out of the Ground
 now or late of Sir *John Wats*,
 Knight, lying near *Popbam Eau*
 aforesaid, ten Acres, one Rood
 and twenty-six Perches at the
 East Part thereof; out of the
 Ground of *Henry Goldwell*, ad-
 joining unto the common Fen
 called *Sbeuens*, extending unto
 the said River of *Wellney*, one
 Acre and twelve Perches at the
 East Corner thereof; out of the
 Ground now or late of Sir *Robert*
Bell, Knight, abutting upon
Wellney River and the Ground
 belonging to the Dean and Chap-
 ter of *Norwich*, eight Acres and
 one Rood and thirty Perches at
 the North-east Part thereof; out
 of the Ground now or late of
William Drue, abutting also up-
 on the said Ground of the Dean
 and Chapter of *Norwich*, four-
 teen Acres, one Rood and twenty
 Perches at the East End thereof;
 out of the Ground of *Haman le*
Strange, Esq; called *Great Greeces*,
 twenty-six Acres, three Roods
 and ten Perches at the South
 Part thereof; out of the next
 adjoining Ground now or late of
John Bellamy and *Matthew Bel-*
lany, four Acres, three Roods
 and thirty-eight Perches at the

East End thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground of *John Goddard*, one Acre and two Roods at the North Side thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *William Gabie*, three Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the North-east Part thereof; out of the next adjoining Ground, now or late of *Trisram Diamond*, Gent. three Acres, one Rood, and thirty Perches at the East Corner thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *Edmund Man*, adjoining unto the Ground now or late of *John Dixon*, two Acres, two Roods and twenty-eight Perches at the South-east Corner thereof; one intire Fen Ground now or late of *John Dixon* aforesaid, bounded with the common Fen called *Sheuens* and the River of *Wellney*, containing seven Acres and two Roods; out of one other Ground

Darcie Lode, four Acres, two Roods and ten Perches at the South Side thereof; one intire several Fen Ground belonging to the Dean and Chapter of *Norwich*, lying near *Darcie Lode* aforesaid, containing thirteen Acres and thirty Perches; out of the Ground now or late of *John Bloome*, abutting upon the Ground of *John Marshall*, Gent. two Acres, three Roods and thirty-three Perches at the South-east Side thereof; out of the said Ground now or late of *John Marshall* aforesaid, ten Acres, three Roods and ten Perches at the North End thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *Thomas Crosse*, abutting upon *Causey Dike*, four Acres, two Roods, and ten Perches at the West End thereof; out of the Ground now or late of Sir *William Reade* aforesaid, abutting upon *Causey Dike* near *Wellney*, three Roods and ten Perches at the North End thereof; out of the Ground now or late of Sir *John Wals*, Knight, abutting upon *Maid Lode*, three Acres at the East Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *John Stanbridge*, lying near *Wellney*, one Acre at the East Part thereof; out of the Ground now or late of *James Ravens*,

one Acre at the North-east Part thereof, abutting upon *Bedford* River; out of the Ground now or late of *Francis Waters*, lying on the South Side of *Bedford* River, abutting upon *Hale Fen* and *Wellney* River, eleven Acres and two Roods at the South-east End thereof; and out of the Ground now or late of *Richard Ward*, lying near *Pralls*, were three Acres and twenty Perches at the North Side thereof.

150 0 0

COM. HUNTINGDON.

Somer-
ham.

OUT of the common Fen }
Grounds of or belonging
to the *Soake* of *Somersham*, in the
said County of *Huntingdon*, one
thousand six hundred and five

mon Fens called High Fen and North Fen, one thousand five hundred thirty-three Acres, abutting upon the said Fen called *Croll* Lode, and adjoining Southward upon the low Fen of *Somerſham* and the hard Lands, and Northward upon the common Fens of *Warbois* and *Fenton* Lode.

1605 0 0

Out of a ſeveral Fen Ground in *Somerſham* called *Rewey*, eleven Acres at the North Part thereof.

11 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of *Warbois* or *Ramſey*, in the County of *Huntingdon*, lying between the Weſt Water from *St. Bennet's Croſs* unto *Fenton* Lode, and along the ſaid Lode unto the hard Lands of *Warbois*, and by a ſtraight Line extended from *Wiſſawe* Stone in the Fen unto *St. Bennet's Croſs* aforeſaid, one thouſand eight Hundred ſixty eight Acres at the North-weſt Part of the ſame Ground, on both Sides of the new Drain, extending from the hard Lands of *Warbois* unto the Weſt Water, abutting upon the ſaid Weſt Water, the Commons of *Ramſey* called *Eaſt-moor* and the common Fen called *Wiſſawe* Fen.

Warbois.

1868 0 0

Out

Wistowe. Out of the common Fen
 Grounds called *Wistowe Fen*, in
 the said County of *Huntingdon*,
 belonging to *Ramsay*, *Wistowe* and
Berry, or to some or one of them,
 and bounded with the said com-
 mon Fens of *Warbois* or *Ram-*
sey, the hard Lands of *Wistowe*
 and *Berry*, the Mow Fen of
Berry, and the Lake called *Sal-*
laries Raft, three hundred eighty-
 six Acres at the North-east Part
 of the said Fen, abutting upon
 the said common Fen of *Warbois*
 or *Ramsay*, and the said Lake
 called *Sallarjes* Raft.

386 0 0

Berry. Out of the common Fen
 Ground belonging to *Berry* in
 the said County of *Huntingdon*,
 called *Berry* Mow Fen, forty-
 five Acres at the South Part of
 the said Fen.

45 0 0

Ramsay. Out of the common Fen
 Grounds of or belonging to *War-*
bois or *Ramsay*, in the said County

Ever Cromwell, Knight of the Honourable Order of the Bath, one thousand four hundred ninety and six Acres; out of the South-east Part of the said Fen, on both Sides of the said new Drain, extending from the hard Lands of *Warbois* unto the West Water, and adjoining upon *Pulver Fen* and *Sallaries* East aforesaid.

1496 0 0

Out of one other common Fen Ground of *Ramsay* aforesaid, called Middle Moor, one thousand eight hundred seventy and five Acres, abutting Westward upon the new Drain or Way leading from the hard Lands of *Upwood* unto *Wislesey*, Southward upon the River *Neane*, and North-eastward upon *Delfe* Dike and the several Grounds called the *Steds*.

1875 0 0

Out of one other Fen Ground of or belonging to *Ramsay*, *Upwood* and *Raveley*, or to some or one of them, lying near unto *Raveley*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, two hundred twenty-nine Acres, abutting upon the hard Lands of *Raveley*, near unto a Place called *Raveley's Nook*, and upon the Fen Grounds claimed as Parcel of the Manor of *Woodwalton*.

229 0 0

Out

Out of one other common
 Fen Ground of or belonging unto
Ramsay or *Upwood*, in the said
 County of *Huntingdon*, or to one
 of them, lying between the hard
 Lands of *Upwood* and the River
Neane, eight hundred fifty-six
 Acres, abutting Westward upon
 the Drain or Way leading from
 the hard Lands of *Upwood* unto
Willesey afore said, Northward up-
 on the River *Neane*, and East-
 ward and Southward upon *Bill*
Lode and the hard Lands of
Upwood afore said.

856 0 0

Out of one other common
 Fen Ground of or belonging to
Ramsay afore said, lying between
Ramsay Meer and *Delfe Dike*,
 one hundred and eight Acres,
 abutting upon *Delfe Dike* and the
 River *Neane*.

108 0 0

Out of the several Fen
 Grounds of Sir *Oliver Cromwel*,
 Knight of the Honourable Order

ing seventy-six Acres; and the Residue, being twenty-one Acres, out of the said Fen Ground called *Wigin Moor*, at the South-east Part thereof abutting upon *Abbots Pingle* aforesaid.

177 o o

Severals of
Ramsey.

Out of the other several Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Ramsey* aforesaid, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, one hundred fifty-five Acres; (that is to say) out of the Fen Ground called *Upper Steds*, five Acres, two Roods and twenty Perches at the North-east End thereof; out of the several Fen Grounds called *Netber Steds*, eighteen Acres and one Rood at the North-west End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of — *Beale*, Gent, lying near *Witlesey Meer*, three Acres, one Rood and ten Perches at the North-east Part of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Grounds of *Thomas Cromwel*, Gent, called *Dantree* and *Bagdole*, thirty-three Acres, one Rood and ten Perches at the North-east End of the said Ground called *Bagdole*; out of the several Fen Ground of — *Houson*, called also *Bagdole*, twelve Acres and two Roods at the South-west Part thereof, abutting

ting upon *Witlesey Meer* ; out of
a several Fen Ground belonging
to Sir *Oliver Cromwell* aforesaid,

lying on the South Side of *Ugg*
Meer, six Acres at the South-
west Part of the same Ground ;
out of the several Fen Grounds
called *Beaupre Closes*, eight Acres
and one Rood, abutting upon
Delfe Dike and the River *Neane* ;
out of the several Fen Grounds
called *Great Hilkes*, twenty-eight
Acres and one Rood at the East
Part thereof, abutting upon
Ramsay Meer and the River
Neane ; out of the several Fen
Grounds called *Little Hilkes*,
two Acres and two Roods at
the Part thereof, next unto the
Mouth of *Ramsay Meer* ; out
of the several Fen Ground called
Pollins, two Acres and two
Roods at the East Part thereof ;
out of the greater Close called
Beau's Arle lying near *Hilkes*

bois, called *Vicars Closes*, six Acres and ten Perches at the West Part of the said Closes; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Anne Nesleton*, lying near *Ramsley Town*, one Acre at the South Part thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *Thomas Cock*, one Acre and three Roods at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Crockston*, one Acre and one Rood at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Bateman*, two Acres and twenty-eight Perches at the North End of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Lavender*, one Acre, one Rood and four Perches at the North Part thereof; out of the several Fen Ground now or late of *John Leeders*, one Acre, two Roods and four Perches at the North Part thereof; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Williamson*, two Acres, two Roods and twenty-eight Perches at the North End thereof; out of the several Fen Grounds of *Widow Holmes*, two Acres, two Roods and sixteen Perches at the South End of the greater Ground
 be-

belonging unto her, abutting up-
 on the Lode; out of the several
 Fen Ground of *Thomas Barnes*,
 two Acres and ten Perches at the
 East Part thereof; out of the
 several Fen Ground of *John*
Knight, three Acres, three Roods
 and thirty Perches at the West
 Part thereof, abutting upon the
 Ground of *William Cakebread*;
 out of the several Fen Ground of
Richard Allen, lying near *Highb*
Northey, two Roods at the North
 Side thereof; out of the several
 Fen Ground of *Robert Booth*,
 two Roods at the South Side
 thereof; out of the several Fen
 Ground of *Thomas Howson*, one
 Acre at the North End thereof;
 out of the several Fen Ground of
 — *Farmer*, Gent, three Roods
 at the East Side thereof; and
 out of the several Fen Ground,
 lying on the East Part of *Stoking*
 Fen, in the Occupation of *Ralph*

the same Ground, abutting upon the several Fen Grounds of *Hignie* Farm and *Brick Meer*, claimed by *John Marshall*, Gent. and the Residue, being five hundred forty and four Acres, out of the North Part of the said Fen, abutting upon *Ugg Meer* and the common Fen Grounds of *Ramsey* and *Upwood*, late in the Possession of and claimed by —
Laurence, Gent.

937 o o

Out of the two several Fen Grounds of the said *John Marshall*, lying in *Wood-walton* aforesaid, next unto the Fen and hard Lands of *Sautrey*, thirty-six Acres at the North End of the said Grounds, abutting upon *Sautrey* Fen and the hard Lands of *Hignie* Farm.

36 o o

Out of the one other Fen Ground in *Wood-walton* aforesaid, lying between the hard Lands of *Wood-walton* and *Hignie* Fen, and the said Fen of *Wood-walton*, claimed as Several by the said *John Marshall*, fifteen Acres, abutting upon the hard Lands of *Wood-walton*, at the South-east Part of the said Ground.

15 o o

Q

Out

Hignie.

Out of the several Fen
Grounds of or belonging to
Hignie Farm in the said County
of *Huntingdon*, one hundred
Acres at the North End of the
said Grounds, abutting upon the
several Fen Grounds of *Coning-*
ton, and upon the common Fen
Grounds of *Holme* and *Wood-*
walton aforesaid.

100 0 0

Sautrey.

Out of the common Fen
Grounds of or belonging to
Sautrey, in the said County of
Huntingdon, two hundred and six
Acres at the South-east Part of
the same Fen, abutting upon
the several Fen Grounds of *Sap-*
trey and *Wood-walton* aforesaid,
and upon the hard Lands of
Sautrey.

206 0 0

Out of two several Fen
Grounds in *Sautrey* aforesaid, lying
near unto *Woodwalton* aforesaid,
nineteen Acres at the North-east
Part of the greater of the said seve-

19 0

on Fen Grounds of *Sautrey* foreſaid, Eaſtward upon the Fen Grounds of *Higney* Farm, and Northward upon the common Fen called *Holme* Fen.

281 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Holme* and *Glatton*, in the ſaid County of *Huntingdon*, one thouſand and twelve Acres, abutting Eaſtward upon the River *Neane* and *Ugg* Meer, Southward upon *Brick* Meer and the ſaid ſeveral Fen Grounds of *Higney* Farm and *Conington*, and Weſtward upon the hard Lands.

1012 0 0

Holme and Glatton.

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Denton* in the ſaid County of *Huntingdon*, one hundred fifty-fix Acres at the South-eaſt Part of the ſaid Fen, abutting upon *Holme* Lode and the hard Lands of *Holme*.

156 0 0

Denton.

Out of the ſeveral Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Caldecott*, in the ſaid County of *Huntingdon*, fifty-fix Acres; (that is to ſay) out of the Moſſe Fen, belonging to the Right Honourable *Edward* Lord *Montacute*, eighteen Acres at the South-weſt Part of the ſame Ground, abutting upon the Ground called the *Turfe* Lots; out of the ſaid

Caldecott.

said Ground called the *Turfe*
 Lots, four Acres, three Roods
 and twenty Perches at the North
 End of the same Ground abut-
 ting upon *Caldecott* Dike; out
 of the Ground called the *Mow-*
ing Lots, eight Acres and three
 Roods at the West End of the
 same Ground; out of one other
 several Fen Ground of the said
 Lord *Montacute*, fourteen Acres,
 one Rood and three Perches,
 abutting upon Part of the afore-
 said *Mowing* Lots and upon *Den-*
ton Fen; out of three several
 Fen Grounds now or late in the
 Occupation of *Thomas Hall*, three
 Acres, three Roods and twenty-
 five Perches at the North Part of
 the same Grounds; out of five
 several Fen Grounds, in the Te-
 nure or Occupation of Sir *Tho-*
mas Cotton, Baronet, — *Wil-*
liamson, Gent. — *Fuller*, Gent.

Fuller, Gent. the said *Thomas Hall* and *William Ashton*, lying between the aforementioned Drove-way and the hard Lands, two Acres and two Perches at the East Part of the same Ground.

56 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Stilton*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, one hundred and sixty Acres, abutting upon *Caldecott* Dike, the *Turfe* Fen of *Stilton*, and the common and several Fens of *Taxley*.

Stilton.

160 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Taxley*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, six hundred thirty and two Acres at the North-east Part of the same Fens, abutting upon *Pigge-water*, *Witlesey* Meer and *Trundle* Meer.

Taxley.

632 0 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of *Taxley* aforesaid, twenty-nine Acres; (that is to say) out of the Mow Fen, called Western Meadow, eight Acres and two Roods at the North-east Side of the same Ground, abutting upon the River *Neane*; out of a Holt belonging to *Thomas Gentill*, lying near the Town of *Taxley*, three Roods and five

Q 3 Perches

Perches at the South End of the said Holt; out of a Holt belonging to *John Isopp*, one Rood and five Perches at the South End of the same Holt; out of the Holt belonging to *Widow Pierson*, one Rood at the South End of the said Holt; out of the Holt belonging to *Pinckbeck Pierson*, one Rood and twenty Perches at the South End of the same Holt; out of the several Fen Ground of *Bartholomew Brown*, abutting upon *Witlesey Meer*, one Acre and one Rood, at the Part of the said Ground next *Trundle Meer*; out of the several Fen Ground of *Thomas Wats*, lying near *Taxley Town*, five Perches at the South-west Part of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground of *Emmanuel Probie*, Gent. lying near *Taxley Town*, one Rood

South-west Part of the same Ground; out of the several Fen Ground belonging to the said *Emmanuel Probie*, abutting upon *Stilton* Fen, eight Acres and two Roods at the North-east End of the same Ground; out of a several Fen Ground lying between *Witlesey* Meer and *Trundle* Meer, three Acres and three Roods at the East Part thereof; out of another Fen Ground, lying also between *Witlesey* Meer and *Trundle* Meer, one Acre and one Rood at the East Part thereof; and out of the several Fen Ground lying at the End of Conquest Lode, by *Witlesey* Meer, three Roods, abutting upon *Witlesey* Meer aforesaid.

29 0 0

Out of the common Fen Grounds of or belonging to *Fasset*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*, nine hundred and forty Acres, abutting Eastward upon the Fen called *Middle-moore* in *Ramsay*, and Southward upon *Witlesey* Meer, and upon two several Fen Grounds belonging to *Fasset* aforesaid, adjoining to the said Meer.

Fasset;

940 0 0

Out of the several Fen Grounds of *Fasset* aforesaid, one hundred sixty and two Acres, be-

Q4

ing

ing two intire Fen Grounds
abutting upon the aforesaid com-
mon Fen Grounds of *Fasse*
aforesaid, and upon *Witley*
Meer.

COM. NORTHAM

Peter-
borough.

OUT of the common Fen
Ground of or belonging to
the *Soake* of *Peterborough*, in the
said County of *Northampton*,
called *Burrough* Great Fen, two
thousand six hundred twenty and
two Acres, abutting Eastward
upon Part of the said common
Fen lying near *Finshed* Crofs and
the Grounds of *Single-sole*
Farm, Southward upon the Drain
or Way leading from *Peakirk*
Meadow to *Guy Hurne*, North-
ward on the new Bank of

n, two hundred and ninety
Acres at the West End thereof,
utting upon the said Fen called
Burrough Great Fen, and the
ommon Fens of *Crowland*.

290 0 0

Out of one other common
en Ground of or belonging to
Peterborough aforesaid, in the said
County of *Northampton*, called
Burrough Little Fen, eighty-
eight Acres at the East Part
thereof, abutting upon *Muscot*
Water and *Oxney* Lode.

88 0 0

Out of the several Fen
Grounds of or belonging unto
Single-sole Farm, in the said
County of *Northampton*, forty-
five Acres, abutting Eastward
upon *Catwater*, Southward upon
the several Fen Grounds of *Nor-*
tham Farm, and Westward upon
Peterborough Great Fen.

45 0 0

Out of the several Fen
Grounds of or belonging to
the said *Northam* Farm, in the
said County of *Northampton*,
eighty Acres; (that is to say)
forty Acres in one Parcel adjoin-
ing Eastward upon *Catwater*,
Northward upon the said several
Fen Grounds of *Single-sole*
Farm aforesaid; and the Resi-
due, being forty Acres, out of
the several Fen called *Cranmoore*,
out

out of the South-east Part thereof, abutting upon the Fen called the *Harpe*, and upon the hard Lands of *Eye*. 80 0 0

Out of the Fen called the mowing Fen Grounds, of or belonging to *Eye*, in the said County of *Northampton*, fifteen Acres, three Roods and thirty Perches, out of the said Mow Fen called Small-acre Furlong, and *Chillam-tree* Furlong; (that is to say) out of the Ground called Small-acre Furlong, twelve Acres, one Rood and thirty Perches at the East Side of the same Ground, abutting upon *Catwater*; and the Residue, being three Acres and two Roods, out of the said Ground called *Chillam-tree* Furlong, at the North Side thereof, abutting upon the several Ground of *Northam* Farm called the *Reaches*. 15 3 1

Out of the several Fen

the Roods, being one intire
a, called *Newthred*, abutting
on *Catwater*.

30 3 0

Out of the several Fen
ounds of or belonging to
my Farm, in the said County
Northampton, twenty-six Acres,
utting Northward upon the
d *Engine* and the hard Lands
Eyberry, and the Fen Grounds
Tanbolt Farm aforeſaid, and
outh-eaſtward upon *Catwater*,
he Bank near *Burrough* Little
en, and the other Grounds of
he ſame Farm.

26 0 0

Out of the ſeveral Fen
Grounds of or belonging to the
Right Honourable *Francis* Earl
of *Bedford*, lying in *Eyberry* in
the ſaid County of *Northampton*,
eleven Acres out of the Ground
called *Alder* Fen, abutting upon
high *Edgerley* Common.

11 0 0

Out of the lot Fen Ground
belonging to *Eye* aforeſaid, called
the *Harp*, four Acres and two
Roods at the Eaſt End of the
ſame, abutting upon the hard
Lands of *Eye* aforeſaid.

4 2 0

Out of the ſeveral Fen
Grounds of *John Troughton*, ly-
ing in *Newark Edgerley*, three
Roods at the Eaſt Part of the
ſame Ground.

0 3 0

Out

Out of the several Fen
Ground of Widow *Butcher*, and
the Heirs of *Giles Burrough*, five
Acres, in two Parcels lying to-
gether in the Fens called the *Holts*,
abutting upon *Peterborough Great*
Fen.

5 0 0

COM. LINCOLNE.

owland.

OUT of the common Fen
Grounds of or belonging to
Crowland in the said County of
Lincoln, four hundred Acres
at the East Part of the same
Fens, abutting Eastward upon
St. Gutblake's Cross and *Calwater*,
Southward upon the common
Fen called the Four-hundred
Acres, or *Alderbolt*, and North-
ward upon the Fen Grounds of
Crowland aforesaid, called *Por-*

400 0 0

medules annexed, ~~We~~ have caused by
 the Presents to be exemplified, at the Re-
 quest of *William* Earl of *Bedford*, Participants
 and Adventurers for draining of the Great
 Level of the Fens.

In witness whereof we have caused these
 Letters to be made Patent,

Witness Ourself at *Westminster*, the
 eighteenth Day of *March* in the Year of
 our Lord one thousand six hundred fifty
 and eight.

L E N T H A L L.

A N



A N
A C T
FOR THE
Draining of the Great Level
OF THE
F E N S,

Extending itself into the Counties of *Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge* and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of *Ely*, or some of them.

Die Martis, 29 Maii, 1649.

An Act for draining the Great Level of the Fens, extending itself into the Counties of *Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge* and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of *Ely*, or some of them, *was this Day read the third Time, and upon the Question passed, and ordered to be forthwith printed and published.*

Hen. Scobell, Cleric. Parliamenti.



An ACT for the Draining of
the great Level of the Fens,
extending itself into the Coun-
ties of *Northampton, Norfolk,*
Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge
and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle
of *Ely*, or some of them.

WHEREAS the said great Preamble.
Level, by Reason of frequent
Overflowing of the Rivers of
Welland, Neane, Grant, Ouse,
Brandon, Mildenhall and *Stoke*, have been of
small and uncertain Profit, but (if drained)
may be improved and made profitable, and of
great Advantage to the Commonwealth, and
to the particular Owners, Commoners and
Inhabitants, and be fit to bear Coleseed
and Rapeseed in great Abundance, which is
of singular Use to make Soap and Oils within
this Nation, to the Advancement of the
Trade of Clothing and Spinning of Wool,
and much of it will be improved into good
Pasture for feeding and breeding of Cattle,
and for Tillage to be sown with Corn and
Grain, and for Hemp and Flax in great Quan-
R tity

tity, for making all Sorts of Linen Cloth and Cordage for Shipping within this Nation ; which will increase Manufactures, Commerce and Trading at home and abroad, will relieve the Poor by setting them on Work, and will many other Ways redound to the great Advantage and Strengthening of the Nation : And first, to the End it may be known what that Great Level is, and for the ascertaining the Extent, Bounds and Limits thereof, and for Prevention of all Doubts, Questions and Ambiguities touching the same, Be it enacted, ordained and declared by the Authority of this present Parliament, That the Moors, Marshes, fenny and low surrounded Grounds, bounding themselves Eastward from the Bridge and Causey of *Stoke* unto *Brandon* Bridge, upon the Uplands of *Northwold*, *Melbourn*, *Feltwell*, *Hockwold* and *Wilton* in the County of *Norfolk*, and from *Brandon* Bridge unto the End of *Worlington* Lode upon *Mildenball* River, upon the Uplands of *Brandon*, the low Grounds of *Waynsford* excluding the same, the Uplands of *Laking* Heath, the low Grounds of *Eastwell* excluding the same, and the Uplands of *Mildenball* in the County of *Suffolk*, Southward from *Worlington* Lode unto *Burwell* Block, upon the Uplands of *Freckingham*, *Isleham*, *Fodham*, *Sobam* and *Wicken* in the County of *Cambridge*, and excluding the low Grounds of *Burwell*, *Lamward*, and other Places lying Eastward from *Burwell* Block aforesaid ; and from thence unto the Mill near *Anglesey* Abbey, upon the Uplands of *Burwell* Reach, *Swaffham* Prior, *Swaffham*

Boundaries of
the Level.

~~S~~ *Swaffham* *Bulbeck*, and *Bottesham* in the said
~~C~~ County of *Cambridge*, and from thence unto
~~T~~ the Ferry-place at *Claythib*, upon the Uplands
~~C~~ called *Qui Hall*, the low Ground called *Low*
~~F~~ *Fen*, and the Uplands of *Horningsey* and
~~C~~ *Claythib*, in the said County, excluding the
~~L~~ low Grounds called *Low Fen* and *Offen*, and
~~f~~ from the said Ferry-place unto *Over Lode*,
~~u~~ upon the Uplands of *Waterbeach*, *Cottenbam*,
~~R~~ *Rampton*, *Wivelingbam*, and *Over*, in the said
~~C~~ County of *Cambridge*, and upon the low
~~G~~ Grounds of *Swacey* in the said County, ex-
~~c~~ cluding the same Westward from *Eritb*, unto
~~t~~ the Dam lately made upon the River *Neane*
~~n~~ near *Standground*, upon the Uplands of *So-*
~~m~~ *merfham*, and the Soake thereof, *Warboys*,
~~W~~ *Wistow*, *Berry*, *Ramsey*, *Upwood*, *Raveley*,
~~W~~ *Woodwalton*, *Saxstrey*, *Connington*, *Glatton* and
~~H~~ *Holme*, *Caldicot*, *Denton*, *Stilton*, *Taxley*, *Fasset*
~~a~~ and *Standground* in the County of *Huntingdon*,
~~e~~ excluding the low Grounds lying on the North
~~S~~ Side of the River *Ouse* above *Eritb*; and
~~f~~ from the said Dam unto *Peterborough* Bridge,
~~u~~ upon the said River of *Neane*; and from
~~t~~ thence unto the Ferry-place near *Waldram* Hall
~~u~~ upon the Uplands of *Peterborough* and the
~~S~~ Soake thereof in the County of *Northampton*,
~~N~~ Northward from the said Ferry-place near
~~W~~ *Waldram* Hall unto *Crowland* Bridge upon the
~~R~~ River of *Welland*, and from thence to *Dowdsdale*
~~u~~ upon the Banks of great *Porsand*, and from
~~t~~ thence unto unto *Guyburne* upon the Southea
~~B~~ Bank, and from thence unto *Tilneyburne* upon
~~t~~ the Bank of the Fen Ground call *Waldersley*,
~~a~~ and from thence unto *Elme-Leame* at *Gran-*

gers House upon the Bank of the Fen Ground called *Coldham*, and from thence unto the River of *Neane* near *Thurlings* in *Upwell*, upon the Bank of *Needham* called *Bishops Dike*, and from thence unto *Well Creek* at the North-west Corner of *Walsingham* Fen, upon the Bank of the Grounds in *Upwell* and *Outwell*, called *Plawfield* and *Churchfield*, excluding the aforesaid Fens and Grounds called *Waldersley*, *Coldham*, *Needham*, *Plawfield* and *Churchfield*; and from thence unto *Saliers Lode* upon the new *Podike* Bank, and from thence unto the Mouth of the River *Wissey* upon the River *Ouse*, and from thence unto *Helgey* Bridge upon the River *Wissey*; and from thence unto the Upland at the End of the Bank of the Grounds late of *Edmond Skipwith* Esq; deceased, upon the said Bank; and from thence unto *Stoake* Bridge, upon the Uplands of *Roxham*, *Dereham*, *Wereham*, *Wretton* and *Stoake* in the said County of *Norfolk*: And all Moors, Marshes, fenny and low surrounded Grounds, within the Bounds, Limits and Precincts aforesaid, are and be, and shall from Time to Time hereafter by Virtue of this Act be taken and esteemed to be the said Great Level, to be drained as hereafter is expressed; except always the imbanked Grounds late of the said *Edmond Skipwith* Esq; lying on the North Side of the River of *Ouse*. And whereas *Francis* late Earl of *Bedford*, in his Life-time, did undertake the said Work, and had ninety-five thousand Acres, Parcel of the said Great Level, decreed

Exception of
Edmond
Skipwith's
Grounds.

and set forth in *October* in the thirteenth 95000 Acres
 year of the Reign of the late King *Charles* in set out in Oc-
 competence thereof; and he and his Partici- tober 13 Car.
 pants, and the Adventurers in the said Work, 1. to Earl of
 Bedford.
 and their Heirs and Assigns, have made a
 good Progress therein with Expence of great
 and vast Sums of Money, and so far pro-
 ceeded as that the greatest Part of the said
 ninety-five thousand Acres was divided by
 twenty Lots and Shares amongst the said *Francis*
Earl of Bedford, Adventurers and Partici-
 pants, and their Assigns; but by Reason of
 some late Interruptions the Works there made
 have fallen into Decay, so that the intended
 Benefit to the Commonwealth hath been in a
 great Measure hitherto prevented and delayed:
 And whereas *William* now Earl of *Bedford*,
 Son and Heir of the said *Francis*, late Earl
 of *Bedford*, and the said Participants and Ad-
 venturers, their Heirs and Assigns, are content
 to proceed effectually in the said Work of
 Draining, and forthwith after the Passing of
 this Act to begin and prosecute the same with-
 out Cessation or Intermission, until the Work
 be done, unseasonable Times and Extremity
 of Weather only excepted; to the End there-
 fore so public a Work, proper for the Care of
 a Parliament, may continue, proceed and be
 prosecuted with Justice, Equality and Effect,
 Be it enacted and ordained, and it is hereby
 enacted and ordained by the Authority afore-
 said, That the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, William Ear-
 the said Participants and Adventurers, and his of Bedford de-
 and their Heirs and Assigns, be and are here- clared Under-
 by declared to be the Undertakers of the said taker.

Work of Draining the said Great Level, and
 Time to complete the Draining till *October* 1656, without Prejudice to Navigation. shall at or before the tenth Day of *October*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord 1656, cause the same to be drained and imbanked, without Prejudice to the Navigation in the said Rivers or the Parts adjacent; and all the said Level, except as hereafter is excepted, shall be made Winter Ground, in such Manner as the said Rivers or any of them shall not overflow the Grounds within the said Level; Breaches by inevitable Accidents, which are in convenient Time to be repaired and made good again by the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, Participants and Adventurers, his and their Heirs and Assigns, only excepted; and except such Lands and Grounds, Parcel of the said Level, which are not to exceed fifteen thousand Acres at the most, which may be left in several Places for Receptacles and Beds for the Water upon sudden Rains and Floods, besides the Meers, Pools and Channels within the said Level which are not intended to be drained. And be it therefore further enacted and ordained, That the said Receptacles not to exceed 15000 Acres besides Meers, Pools, &c. *William* now Earl of *Bedford*, *Edward Russell*, Esq; *Robert Henley*, Esq; and *Robert Castle*, Esq; their Heirs and Assigns, upon the Trusts hereafter following, and in Recompence of the aforesaid Charge and Adventure, and for bearing the Charge of Draining, and maintaining the Works from Time to Time, shall have and enjoy the said whole ninety-five thousand Acres, as well those Parts which were not, as those which were comprised within the said twenty Lots, Parcel of the said

inevitable Breaches excepted.

Four Trustees.

I Great Level, and lying within the
 undaries beforementioned, as the same have
 heretofore been set forth in *October* in the
 teenth Year of the Reign of the said late
 ng, or hereafter shall by Virtue of this Act
 allotted, set forth, severed or divided for
 at Purpose, to hold to them the said *William*
 arl of *Bedford*, *Edward Russel*, *Robert Hen-*
 and *Robert Castle*, their Heirs and Assigns,
 the Use of them, their Heirs and Assigns,
 Trust nevertheless for the said *William* Earl
 f *Bedford*, Participants, and Adventurers,
 nd their Heirs and Assigns, who had or have
 he said twenty Lots, and the Heirs of such
 Assigns, and for no other Person or Persons,
 cording to their several and respective Pro-
 portions, and to execute Estates accordingly
 upon Request. And in case any Difference
 hall arise, who be, or ought to be, Adven-
 urers and Participants, or Assigns, or about
 Proportions assigned, then the Commissioners
 hereafter named, or any six or more of them,
 shall have Power to determine the same.
 And it is hereby further enacted and ordained,
 That it shall and may be lawful to and for the
 said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, his Participants
 and Adventurers, and his and their Heirs and
 Assigns and the Persons employed by them,
 to make any new or enlarge any old Cuts,
 Sasses, Sluces, Drains, Banks, Recepacles,
 or other Works necessary or conducing to or
 for the said Draining, through or upon the
 Grounds of any Person or Persons within or
 without the said Level; and for that Purpose
 from Time to Time shall have free Passage,

to enjoy the
 Lands as set
 out in *October*,
 13 Car.

Four Trustees
 to execute
 Estates upon
 Request.
 Commis-
 sioners hereafter
 named to de-
 termine Dif-
 ferences.

William Earl
 Bedford, Par-
 ticipants and
 Adventurers,
 to make new
 or enlarge any
 old Cuts, &c.

free Egress, Ingress, Egress and Regress, for themselves
with Carts, their Agents and Workmen, and their Horses
Carriages, &c. Carts and Carriages, into, by and through the
said Grounds or any Part thereof; paying or
tendering to the Owners of, and Parties in-
terested in the said Grounds, for all such Cuts,
Saffes, Sluces, Drains, Banks, Receptacles, or
other Works made or to be made in and
upon the Grounds without or within the said
Level, such reasonable Recompence as by the
said Owners and Parties interested shall be
agreed upon; or if any Difference happen
therein, then as shall be ordered and adjudged
by the Commissioners hereafter named, or by
any six or more of them. **Provided,** That
the said Earl of *Bedford*, Participants, Ad-
venturers nor Commissioners, nor any of them,
shall, by any Authority hereby given or
granted, intermeddle with the River of *Wil-*
Not to meddle land, or interrupt the Fall of the Waters in-
with the Ri- ver of Wel- to the same, nor draw any the Waters from
land, the said River; but that all the Waters
in and falling into that River, shall be
suffered to go into the direct Course to
Spalding and so to the Sea, for the Preserva-
tion of the Country by clearing the Outfall.

do in the said Level, to interrupt, dis-
 turb or molest the said *William Earl of Bedford*, his Participants, Adventurers, his and
 his Heirs and Assigns, Agents and Work-
 men, in the carrying on and perfecting of the
 said Work; and that the said Earl of *Bed-*
ford, his Participants, Adventurers, Heirs and
 assigns, or any five or more of them, shall
 have Power to collect and levy, as well the
 arrears of old Taxes formerly set upon and
 among themselves, as to set new Taxes upon
 and among themselves, and levy Money out
 of the said ninety-five thousand Acres for
 and towards the Charges of the said Work of
 Draining, and all other Charges tending to
 or depending upon the same, according as
 they or any five or more of them in
 their Judgments shall think fit; and to make
 Orders and Rules for the doing and main-
 taining the said Work, and to govern and
 manage the same; and to appoint and im-
 ploy such Officers, Agents, Ministers and
 Workmen, and to change them or any of
 them, and to employ others in their Rooms,
 from Time to Time as they shall think fit;
 and also shall have Power to give Recom-
 pence to such Officers, Agents, Ministers,
 Surveyors, Workmen, and all other Person
 or Persons whatsoever, employed by them in
 or about the said Work of Draining, or
 maintaining thereof, in Land out of the
 said ninety-five thousand Acres, or Money,
 or both, as they or any five or more of them
 in their Judgments shall think fit: And that
 if the said *William Earl of Bedford*, Partici-
 pants

no Commis-
 sioners of Sew-
 ers to inter-
 meddle.

Five Partici-
 pants or Ad-
 venturers as
 well to collect
 old Arrears of
 Taxes as set-
 tle new.

To make Or-
 ders and em-
 ploy Work-
 men, &c.

Any five Participants to sell for Non-payment of Taxes.

pants and Adventurers, his and their Heirs and Assigns, or any of them, which now have or hereafter shall have any Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, shall refuse or make Default to pay such Arrears or proportionable Tax or Taxes as shall be laid on them, in Respect to his or their Share in or out of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, by such five or more of the Participants and Adventurers as aforesaid, That then for such Default the Lot or Share in the said Lands of such as shall not bring in and pay their Tax and Taxes so to be laid, shall be forthwith sold by such five or more of the said Participants and Adventurers as aforesaid, in such Proportion as they shall think fit, restoring the Surplusage of the Money, if any be, for raising and Payment of the said Arrears, Tax or Taxes, by any Writing under any five or more of their Hands and Seals; and the Person or Persons to whom such Sale shall be made, shall be a lawful Assignee of so much as shall be so sold, to all Intents and Purposes. And whereas after the Work shall be done, there will require from Time to Time a

1 Adventurerers, his and their Heirs Each Person
 d Assigns, each of them, the said Earl, having 200
 ricipants and Adventurers, their Heirs and Acres to have
 signs, having two hundred Acres a-piece of the Power of
 d ninety-five thousand Acres, or any five or Commissioner
 ote of them, after the said Work of Drain-
 g shall be adjudged, and none other Person
 : Persons, shall within the said Level have
 ch and the same Power and Authority, as
 ommissioners of Sewers, authorized by Act
 r Acts of Parliament heretofore made and
 nacted, and now in Force, have or might
 ave within the said Level: And also shall Power to lay
 ave Power to make Taxes from Time to Taxes,
 Time, upon the ninety-five thousand Acres
 nly, for the Upholding, Repairing and
 Maintaining of the said Works: And shall
 ave Power, by Virtue of this Act, for le-
 vying of the said Taxes, to sequester and re- to levy, se-
 ceive the Profits of the Defaulters Lands, quester and
 Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, distraint,
 for satisfying the same, or to take Distresses
 in and upon the same: And shall have further
 Power for the Maintainance of the said Work,
 to make such By-Laws and Orders, as by and make By-
 according to the Laws and Customs of Romney laws.
 Marsh is provided or used, as well for the laying
 and raising of Taxes for the Maintainance of
 the said Work, as for the making and appoint-
 ing Officers for the Overseeing and Main-
 taining thereof from Time to Time, and al-
 lowing fit Salaries and Recompence for the
 same, and for all other necessary Purposes
 and Things, as they shall think fit and re-
 quisite in that Behalf, out of the said ninety-
 five

ommissioners five thousand Acres only. And be it further
meet.

enacted and ordained, That the Commissioners
hereafter named, or any five or more of
them, shall hereby have Power to meet in
the *Middle-Temple Hall London*, upon the seventh
Day after the End of every Term, there
to advise and direct, do and act, accord-
ing to the Powers in this Act given to them;
and shall have Power from Time to Time
to adjourn their Meeting to such other Time
and Place as they shall think fit, and hereby
shall have Power, by View or otherwise as
to them shall seem meer, from Time to
Time, when and so often as any Part or
Parts of the said Level, amounting to the

When 3000
Acres drained
to adjudge.

Quantity of thirty thousand Acres or more,
shall be drained as aforesaid, to judge the same
to be drained, and forthwith to give the said
*William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Ro-
bert Henley and Robert Castle*, their Heirs and

To deliver
Seisin of so
much of the
95000 Acres
as shall lie
therein,

Assigns in Trust as aforesaid, Seisin and Pos-
session of his and their Proportions of the
ninety-five thousand Acres formerly set forth
as aforesaid, or according to such Alterations
therein as shall be made by Virtue of this
Act lying within the said Quantity of thirty

I shall be adjudged to be drained as afore-
 id; whereby they shall become true and
 wful Owners thereof, and rightfully seised to
 em and their Heirs, to the Use of them
 id their Heirs, upon such Trust as afore-
 id, to hold the same, without any Let, In-
 rruption; Diminution or Disturbance of the
 id late King, his Heirs or Successors, or any
 claiming by, from or under him; and shall To hold of the
 hold the same of the Manor of *East Greenwich*, Manor of *East*
 by Fealty only, in free and common Soc- *Greenwich*.
 age, and not otherwise; any Law, Decree,
 Act of Sewers, or other Thing whatsoever to
 the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding. And whereas some particular Persons
 and Parishes do conceive that the Draining
 in one Place would drown or make worse their
 Lands in other Places, and whereas likewise
 divers Persons have or will receive Benefit by
 the said Draining, and do not yet contribute
 towards the said ninety-five thousand Acres;
 and others do conceive and fear that they shall
 be drawn to contribute to the same though
 they receive no Benefit thereby, and do fur-
 ther alledge that the said ninety-five thousand
 Acres in many Places are not indifferently set
 out; Be it therefore further enacted and or-
 dained, That the said Commissioners hereafter
 named, or any six or more of them, shall
 have Power within three Years after the said
 Draining adjudged, and such Possession given
 as aforesaid, to give or make, and shall give
 or make Satisfaction out of the ninety-five
 thousand Acres, to such Person or Persons
 whose Lands or Interest therein shall be made
 worse

To give Satis-
 faction for
 Lands made
 worse than in
 6 Car. 1.

Power within
three Years to
give Allow-
ance for all
Lands bettered
which do not
contribute to
the 95000
Acres.

To restore
Lands unduly
set forth,

worse in Quality or Condition by the afore-
said Draining, then they were before the Un-
dertaking of the Draining of the said Levee
in the sixth Year of the Reign of the said late
King, and proportionable to the Loss and
Damage the Owners and Occupiers of said
Lands shall receive by Reason of the said
Draining; and also shall have Power within
the said three Years to give Allowance to the
said *William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell,*
Robert Henley and *Robert Castle*, their Heirs
and Assigns, (in Trust as aforesaid) out of all
such Lands as are not contributory to the said
ninety-five thousand Acres, and shall be bet-
ter in Quality or Condition for and by Rea-
son of the said Draining, or be thereby secured
from Overflowings and Inundations, and propor-
tionable to the Benefit the Owners and Occupiers
of such Lands shall receive thereby; and shall
also have like Power, within the said three
Years after Possession given as aforesaid, to
alter, change and restore such Part of the said
ninety-five thousand Acres as shall be found
upon Complaint to be unequally and unduly
set forth, and shall thereupon set forth in Lieu
thereof, like Proportions in such other Places

be taken, that the Lands, which since the said
 Undertaking in the said Sixth Year of the
 said late King have not or shall not receive Be-
 nefit by the said Draining, may not be made
 contributory to the said ninety-five thousand
 Acres, nor to the Charges of the said Drain-
 ing, but that the Contributions shall be taken
 only out of such Lands as shall be bettered
 by the said Draining. And be it further enacted
 and ordained, That any Person or Persons,
 Bodies Politick or Corporate, shall and may
 be admitted to adventure for any Quantity or
 Share of two thousand Acres, one thousand
 Acres, or five hundred Acres, Parcel of the said
 ninety-five thousand Acres, so as the whole
 Quantity of Land, which all Person or Per-
 sons, Bodies Politick or Corporate so to be
 admitted to adventure for, exceed not thirty
 thousand Acres, to be indifferently divided
 and set out to such Adventurers in, any Part
 of the said twenty Lots, except in one Lot
 in the Lordship of *Tborney*, belonging to the
 said *William Earl of Bedford*, at the Rate of
 fifty Shillings an Acre; To have and to hold
 to them and their Heirs, so as the Party or
 Parties so desiring to adventure shall, within
 three Months after the Passing of this Act,
 subscribe in a Book to be appointed by the
 said *William Earl of Bedford*, *Edward Russell*,
Robert Henley and *Robert Castle*, or any two
 of them, to be kept for that Purpose, for how
 many Acres he or they will make Choice to
 adventure for, and so as one half of the
 whole Sum, which the Adventure of any Per-
 son

Lands receiv-
 ing no Benef-
 not to contri-
 bute.

To adventure
 for 2000,
 1000, or 500
 Acres,

except the
 20th Lot.

Adventurers
 to subscribe in
 a Book what
 they adven-
 ture for,

at the Rate of 50 s. *per* Acre to be paid to Treasurer.

son or Persons, Bodies Politick and Corporate so adventuring at the Rate of fifty Shillings an Acre, shall amount unto as aforesaid, shall be paid in to such Treasurer or Receiver as shall be appointed by the said *William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle*, or any two of them, before the End of three Months next after the Passing of this Act, and the other Half thereof within one Year next after the Passing of this Act: And from and after such Payments, the said *William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley and Robert Castle*, their Heirs and Assigns, to stand trusted for such Party or Parties so adventuring, their Heirs and Assigns, according to their Proportions adventured for, as for the other former Adventurers and Participants, and their Heirs and Assigns.

Trustees to appoint Treasurer and Clerk.

And the said *William Earl of Bedford, Edward Russell, Robert Henley, and Robert Castle*, or any two of them, are hereby authorized to appoint as well a Treasurer for Receipt of all such Monies, as a Clerk for keeping the said Book, and shall have Power to change them as often as they shall see Cause, and to dispose the Money paid in by any such new Adventurer, or any Part thereof, for the Perfecting the said Work of Draining; and the Surplusage, if any be, amongst the said *William Earl of Bedford*, and former Adventurers and Participants, their Heirs and Assigns, and such Person or Persons from whom any Land, Part of the ninety-five thousand Acres, shall be taken by Reason of such new Adventurers, shall

ll receive a full and proportionable Com-
 pensation for such Lands out of the Residue
 the said ninety-five thousand Acres, from
 ry. one Share and Share like, according to
 Proportion of the Adventure, except
 the said *William Earl of Bedford's* Lot in
Wey, for which nevertheless he is to be
 tributary in Proportion by other his
 lands, Parcel of the said ninety-five thou-
 sand Acres, for Supply thereof; and in Case
 of Difference arise about the setting out any
 of the Adventures or Proportioning of Satis-
 faction, the Commissioners hereafter named,
 any six or more of them, are hereby
 authorized and required to hear and determine
 the same: And such Person or Persons ad-
 venturing as aforesaid, shall not pay or be
 tributary to pay any more than the said
 sum of fifty Shillings an Acre, for or to-
 wards the doing of the said Work of Drain-
 ing; yet nevertheless every such Person or
 Persons so adventuring, after the said Work
 of Draining or any Part thereof shall be
 ordered to be done, shall always afterwards,
 for the Quantity of his and their Adven-
 ture, be liable and equally contributory, ac-
 cording to his and their Proportion, to and
 with the Residue of the said ninety-five
 thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, for and
 towards the Repairs, Maintenance and
 keeping of the said Works of Draining:
 And whereas by a Law or Decree of Sew-
 ers, made in the nineteenth Year of the Reign
 of King *James*, one hundred and twenty
 thousand

Differences
 about setting
 out Adventures
 to be deter-
 mined by
 Commis-
 sioners.

After Drain-
 ing, Adven-
 turers Shares
 to contribute
 to Repairs
 and Main-
 tenance.

Law of Sew-
 ers 19 Jac.
 Law of Sew-
 ers at Han-
 tingdon, 14
 Car. 1. declared
 null and void.

Earl of Bedford and Adventurers to meet and enter in a Book James and Hares of Adventurers.

thousand Acres were decreed to be given for the Draining of the said Level; and where by another Law or Decree of Sewers, made at *Huntingdon*, in the fourteenth Year of the Reign of the said King *Charles*, fifty-seven thousand Acres, over and above the said ninety-four thousand Acres, were also decreed to be given for the said Draining; now to the End the Country may not be double charged, nor any Diminution of the Recompence hereby intended to be given for the said Work, be it therefore further enacted, That the said two Laws or Decrees of Sewers shall from henceforth be null, void and of none Effect, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever. And to prevent Differences between the Adventurers and Participants, their Heirs and Assigns, and that Adventurers and Purchasers may enjoy what of Right to them belongs, be it further enacted, that the said *William Earl of Bedford*, Adventurers and Participants, their Heirs and Assigns, or so many of them as will, do meet the *Thursday* Fortnight, next after the Passing of this Act, in the *Middle-Temple Hall, London*, and there chuse a Tree

Robert Henley and Robert Castle, and their Time of Entry
 Heirs, in Pursuance of the aforesaid Trust or in a Book by
 otherwise, or any Assignment, Lease, Grant Clerk, or In-
 Conveyance by any Adventurer or Partici- rolment in
 not, their Heirs or Assigns, of any of the Chancery.
 and ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Thing
 Charge upon or out of the same, shall be
 valid or of Force, until such Assignment, Lease,
 Grant or Conveyance or Charge shall be en-
 tered in the Book with the said Clerk for the
 Time being, or inrolled in the Chancery.
 And be it further enacted and ordained by Commissioners
 the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissio- after named,
 ners hereafter named, or any six or more of on Examina-
 them, shall and may inform themselves by tion of Wit-
 Examination of Witnesses upon Oath, which nesses on Oath,
 whereby they or any six or more of them shall and their own
 have Power to administer, and by their own View, may
 View, or by both or either of the said Ways, adjudge of
 as in their Judgment shall be expedient, of Matters neces-
 all such Points, Matters and Things which sary to be
 their Judgments are or shall be necessary, for done, accord-
 the better and more speedy executing all and ing to the In-
 every the Powers hereby given them, and do- tent of this
 ing Justice therein according to the true Intent Act.
 and Meaning of this Act: And the Sheriffs, Sheriffs and
 and all other Officers and Ministers of all and Officers to
 every the respective Counties in which the Pre- assist them.
 mises lie, are hereby required to be aiding
 and assisting in all and singular the Premises.
 And it is hereby enacted and ordained by the
 Authority aforesaid, That William Lenthall, Commissioners
 Esq; Speaker of the Parliament, the Lord named.
 Keeper, Lord Chancellor, or Lord Commissi-
 oner or Commissioners of the Great Seal of

England for the Time being, all the Judges of the Upper Bench and Common Pleas, and Barons of the Court of Exchequer for the Time being, *Philip* Earl of *Pembroke* and *Montgomery*, *William* Earl of *Salisbury*, *Edward* Lord *Howard* Baron of *Esrick*, *Sir John Danvers*, Knight, *Sir John Burgoyne*, Knight, *Sir John Bourchier*, Knight, *Sir Thomas Walsingham*, Knight, *Sir Nathaniel Barnardiston*, Knight, *Sir Gilbert Pickering*, Knight and Baronet, *Sir Dudley North*, Knight, *Sir John Trevor*, Knight, *Sir Peter Wentworth*, Knight of the *Bath*, *Sir John Evelyn* of *Wills*, Knight, *Sir Henry Mildmay*, Knight, *Oliver Cromwell*, Lieutenant General, *Henry Ireton*, Commissary General, *Robert Reynolds*, Esq; *Miles Corbet*, Esq; *Nathaniel Bacon*, Esq; *John Maynard*, Esq; *Henry Darley*, Esq; *Robert Brewster*, Esq; *John Crew*, Esq; *John Trenchard*, Esq; *John Palmer*, Doctor of the Laws, *John Goodwin*, Esq; Colonel *Valentine Wanton*, *Talbot Pepys*, Esq; *Alexander Rigby*, Esq; *John Gourdon*, Esq; *William Leman*, Esq; *Thomas Toll*, Esq; *Francis Bacon*, Esq; *Nicholas Love*, Esq; *Luke Robinson*, Esq; *Richard Cromwell*, Esq; Colonel *Edward Rossitor*, *John Selden*, Esq; *Nathaniel Fines*, Esq; *William Pierrepont*, Esq; *John Dove*, Esq; Colonel *Francis Russell*, *Richard Knightley*, Esq; *John Fry*, Esq; *John Sadler*, Esq; *Edward Eltonhead*, Esq; *Jeremiah Whitcomb*, Esq; *William Steel*, Esq; *William Stephens*, Esq; *John Stephens*, Esq; *Thomas Duckett*, Esq; *John Lowry*, Esq; and every of them, are hereby appointed and authorized Commissioners to hear, determine

termine, order, adjudge and execute all such
 matters and Things as are prescribed in this
 Act before limited. And it is lastly ordained ^{Actions}
 Authority aforesaid, That all and every Per- ^{brought for}
 son or Persons concerned or to be concerned ^{anything done}
 in this Act, or which shall do any Thing in ^{in executing}
 execution of the same, shall and may upon ^{of this Act,}
 Defendant ^{Defendant}
 any Action, Suit or Information, plead the ^{may plead the}
 General Issue; and upon any Issue joined may ^{General Issue,}
 give this Act in Evidence, which shall be of ^{and give Act}
 full Force and Validity as if the same had ^{in Evidence.}
 been especially pleaded, and all Judges, Jus-
 tices, Jurors and others, so to accept the same.



Anno Regni
CAROLI II.

R E G I S

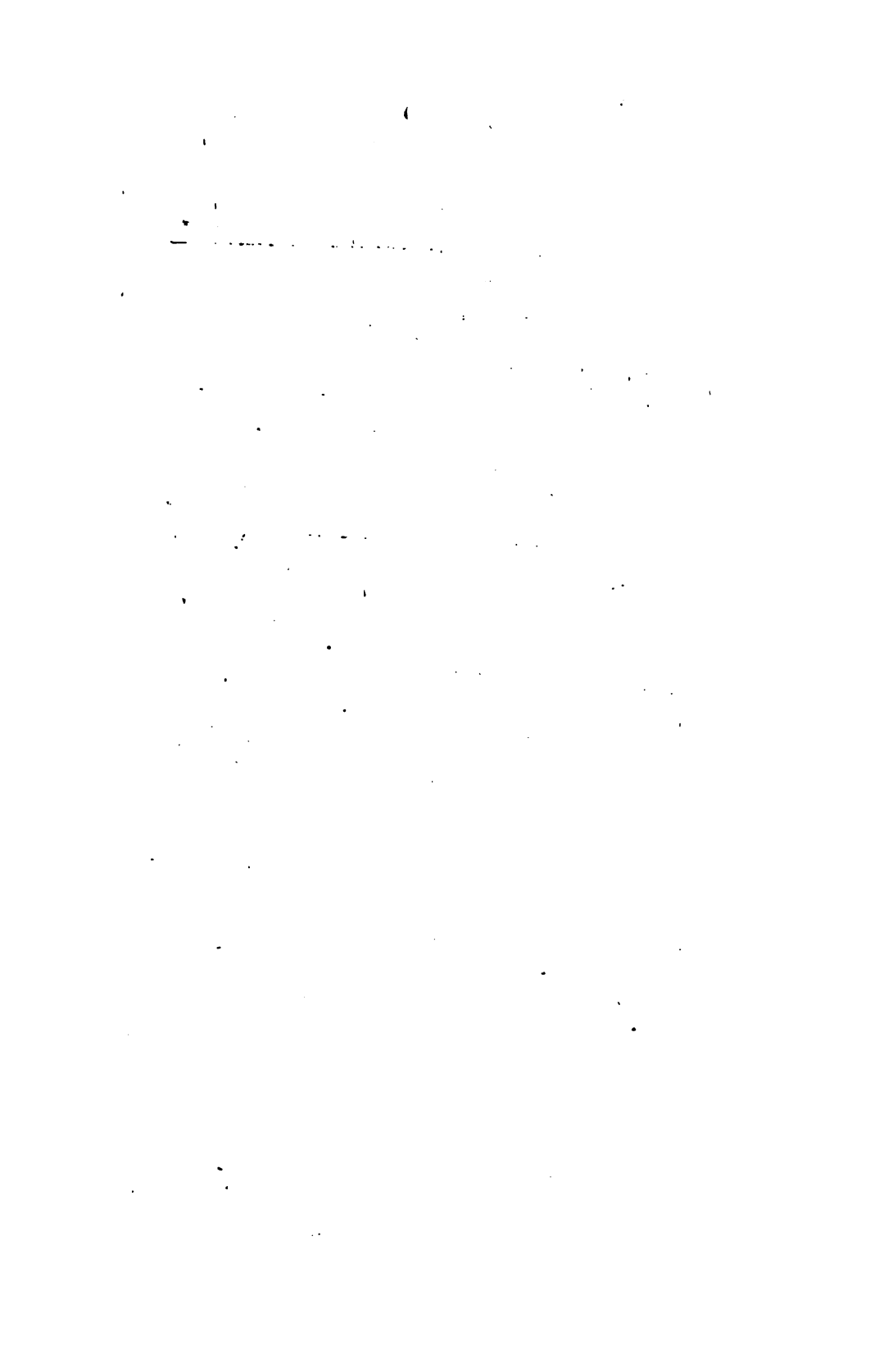
Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,

DECIMO QUINTO.

At the Parliament begun at *Westminster* the eighth Day of *May Anno Domini* 1661, in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of our most Gracious Sovereign Lord *CHARLES*, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France* and *Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And there continued till the nineteenth of *May* in the fourteenth Year of his Majesty's said Reign: And thence prorogued to the eighteenth of *February* then next following:

And there continued to the twenty-seventh of *July* in the fifteenth Year of his Majesty's Reign: And thence prorogued to the sixteenth of *March* then next following.



Anno XV.

CAROLI II. Regis.

An Act for settling the Draining
of the Great Level of
the Fens called *Bedford Level*.

WHEREAS certain Moors, Preamble.
Marshes, fenny and low surrounded Grounds within the Counties of *Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge* and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of *Ely* were called the *Great Level of the Fens*, and after several fruitless Undertakings for Draining the same were, upon the Desires of many Persons of Worth and interested in the same, declared to be a great and noble Work and of much Concernment to the whole Country, and at their earnest Desire undertaken to be drained by *Francis* late Earl of *Bedford*, according to a Law of Sewers made at King's *Lynn* in the sixth Year of the Reign of the late King *Charles* of Glorious Memory, which said Level is bounded as followeth,

ndaries of followeth, (*viz.*) Eastward from the Bridge
 Level. and Caufey of *Stoake* unto *Brandon* Bridge up-
 on the Uplands of *Norbold*, *Metbold*, *Felwell*,
Hockwold and *Wilton* in the County of *Norfolk*,
 and from *Brandon* Bridge unto the End of
Worlington Lode upon *Mildenball* River, upon
 the Uplands of *Brandon*, the Low Grounds
 of *Wainsford* excluding the same, the Uplands
 of *Lakingbeath*, the Low Grounds of *East-*
well excluding the same: And the Uplands of
Mildenball in the County of *Suffolk* Southward
 from *Worlington* Lode unto *Burwell* Block
 upon the Uplands of *Frekingham*, *Ilham*,
Fordham, *Soham* and *Wickin* in the County of
Cambridge, and excluding the Low Grounds
 of *Burwell*, *Landward* and other Places lying
 Eastward from *Burwell* Block aforesaid, and
 from thence unto the Mill near *Anglesey Abby*
 upon the Uplands of *Burwell* Reach, *Swaffham*
Prior, *Swaffham* Bulbeck and *Boissham* in the
 County of *Cambridge*; and from thence unto
 the Ferry-place at *Clayth* upon the Uplands
 called *Quyball*, the Low Ground called *Low*
Fen, and the Uplands of *Horningsey* and
Clayth in the said County excluding the

rry, Ramsey, Upwood, Raveley, Wood-walton,
wotrey, Connington, Glatton and Holme,
aldecott, Denton, Stilton, Yaxley, Passet and
landground in the County of Huntingdon,
 including the Low Grounds lying on the
 North Side of the River of *Ouse* above
Irith; and from the said Dam unto *Peter-*
urough Bridge upon the said River of *Neane*;
 and from thence unto the Ferry-place near
Waldron Hall upon the Uplands of *Peter-*
urough and the Soake thereof in the County
 of *Northampton*; and Northward from the
 said Ferry-place near *Waldron Hall* unto
Crowland Bridge upon the River of *Welland*,
 and from thence to *Dowfedale* upon the Bank
 of *Great Porsand*, and from thence unto
Guyburne upon the Southea Bank, and from
 thence unto *Tilneburne* upon the Bank of
 the Fen Ground called *Walderssea*, and from
 thence unto *Elme Leame* at *Grangers House*
 upon the Bank of the Fen Ground called
Coldbam, and from thence unto the River of
Neane near *Tburlings* in *Upwell* upon the Bank
 of *Needbam* called *Bishops Dike*, and from
 thence unto *Well Creek* at the North-west
 Corner of *Wassingham Fen*, upon the Bank of
 the Grounds in *Upwell* and *Outwell* called
Playfeild and *Cburchfeild*, excluding the afore-
 said Fens and Grounds called *Walderssea*,
Coldbam, *Needam*, *Playfeild* and *Cburchfeild*;
 and from thence unto *Salters Lode* upon the new
Podyke Bank, and from thence unto the Mouth
 of the River *Wisse* upon the River *Ouse*,
 and from thence unto *Helgay Bridge* upon the
 River *Wisse*, and from thence unto the Up-
 lands

Except Mr.
Skipwith's
Ground.

Recite Francis
Earl of Bedford's Under-
taking, and to
have 95000
Acres.

lands at the End of the Bank of the Grounds late of *Edmond Skipwith*, Esq; deceased, upon the said Bank, and from thence unto *Stoake Bridge* upon the Uplands of *Roxham*, *Deerham*, *Weerham*, *Wretton* and *Stoake* in the said County of *Norfolk*, except the imbanked Grounds late of *Edmond Skipwith*, Esq; lying on the North Side of the River of *Ouse*. And whereas the said *Francis* late Earl of *Bedford* was to have, for his Recompence of effecting that difficult Work, only ninety-five thousand Acres of the said Grounds, with convenient Highways and Passages to the same; and the new Rivers, Cuts and Drains to be made by the said Earl and his Assigns, and the Banks of the same and the Forelands in the inside of the said Banks not to exceed sixty Foot in Breadth, which was a Work of so great and publick Concernment, that his said late Majesty gave great Encouragement to the said *Francis* late Earl of *Bedford* and others, whom he had taken in to be adventurers and Participants with him therein, upon the Covenants, Conditions and Agreements contained and specified in and by a certain

the Earl and his Adventurers and Participants
 stowed great Sums of Money for perfecting
 the same; and after his Death, and some In-
 trusions, *William* now Earl of *Bedford*, Earl William's
 Son and Heir to the said Earl *Francis*, with Undertaking.
 others of his Adventurers and Participants,
 by Colour of a pretended Act of Parliament Act of May
 of the nine and twentieth Day of *May* in 1649.
 the Year of our Lord one thousand six hun-
 dred forty and nine, proceeded in the com-
 pleting and finishing the said Works, and the
 Commissioners appointed by that pretended
 Act did adjudge the same drained; but the
 same cannot be preserved without a perpetual
 constant Care, great Charge and orderly Go-
 vernment, which being represented to the
 King's most excellent Majesty that now is,
 he hath been graciously pleased to declare
 more than an ordinary Willingness to promote
 and countenance a Work of so publick Con-
 cernment, and many Ways advantageous to
 this his Kingdom. To the End therefore that
 a Work of this Nature may receive publick
 Support and Encouragement:

II. *Be* it enacted by the King's most ex- Earl William
 cellent Majesty, with the Advice and Assent and Parti-
 of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and icipants incor-
 Commons in this Parliament assembled, and porated.
 by the Authority of the same, That the said
William Earl of *Bedford*, Son and Heir of the
 said *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, and the Adven-
 turers and Participants of the said Earl *Fran-*
cis and Earl *William*, or either of them, their
 Heirs and Assigns, in such Manner as is
 herein contained, shall be a Body Politick
 and

and Corporate, in Deed and Name, and have Succession for ever, by the Name of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Levee of the Fens; which Corporation shall consist of one Governor, six Bailiffs, twenty Conservators and Commonalty, and shall have and use a Common Seal to be appointed by themselves, and assemble and meet together, when, where, and as oft as they please, and appoint a Register, Receiver, one or more Serjeants at Mace, and other Officers, and allow them Salaries, and remove them and make new at their Pleasure. And the said *William* Earl of *Bedford* is to be the first Governor; *Richard* Lord *Gorges*, Sir *Richard* *Onslow*, Knight, Sir *William* *Terringham*, Knight of the *Bath*, *Samuel* *Sandys*, *Thomas* *Chibbely*, and *Samuel* *Fortrey*, Esquires, the six first Bailiffs; Sir *Gilbert* *Gerbard* jun. Knight, *William* *Denton*, *William* *Crane*, *Edmond* *Berry-Godfrey*, *Arthur* *Evelyn*, *Samuel* *Smith*, *Roger* *Jennings*, *Robert* *Castle*, *Robert* *Hampson*, *Joseph* *Ayliffe*, Esquires, *Thomas* Lord *Culpepper*, Sir *John* *Herbert*, Baronet, *Arthur*

shall be then present; and shall be capable to sue and be sued, and without Licence of Mortmain to purchase Manors, Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, not exceeding two hundred Pounds *per Annum*, and Goods and Chattels, and to dispose thereof in the Name, and to the Use of the said Corporation; and the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs or any of them to be two, shall and may lay Taxes from Time to Time upon all the said ninety-five thousand Acres only for Support, Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level, and levy the same with Penalties for Non-payment, not exceeding a third Part of the Tax, and all other Things do in Order to the Support, Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level and Works made and to be made.

To sue and be sued.

To purchase Lands.

Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators or any five, whereof Governor and Bailiffs to be two, may lay Taxes.

Penalty not to exceed a third Part.

And all other Things do, relating to the Support, &c.

III. And whereas by the said Law of Sewers twelve thousand Acres, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, were designed and intended to his said late Majesty, and were set forth and allotted by Bounds in Severalty, and his said late Majesty was in Possession thereof, and granted, assigned, allotted and set out by Bounds two thousand Acres, Parcel of the said twelve thousand Acres, by Letters Patents, unto *Jerome* Earl of *Portland*, his Heirs and Assigns, of which said two thousand Acres the said Earl of *Portland* hath sold away about one thousand five hundred Acres in several Parcels to several Persons, their Heirs and Assigns, for valuable Considerations,

Earl of *Portland*'s 2000 Acres.

ties, and the Residue thereof, being in
five hundred Acres, hath granted and con-
veyed unto his Brother *Benjamin Weston*, Esq;
and his Heirs, upon several Trusts agree-
upon between the said Earl of *Portland* and
Benjamin Weston, by Writing for that Pur-
pose :

IV. *Be* it therefore enacted by the Au-
thority aforesaid, That the said two thousand
Acres, or such other Lands of equal Value
shall be set forth in Exchange of the same,
in Case the forementioned two thousand Acres,
or any Part thereof, shall hereafter be adjudg-
ed to have been unduly set out, shall be, and
hereby are vested, settled and established in
the said several and respective Persons, (to
whom the said Earl of *Portland* hath so con-
veyed or mentioned to convey the same);
their Heirs and Assigns respectively, to each
Person, his Heirs and Assigns, his and their
several and respective Share and Shares, that
was so respectively to each of them conveyed
or mentioned to be conveyed by the said Earl
of *Portland*, to be held or enjoyed by them
or each of them, his Heirs and Assigns, his

To be held in Heirs and Successors, of the Manor of *Essex*
 Soccage. *Greenwich*, by Fealty only in free and com-
 mon Soccage, and not otherwise: And the
 said ten thousand Acres, Residue of the said
 twelve thousand Acres, (whereof his said late
 Majesty was in Possession as aforesaid) are
 hereby vested and settled in his Majesty that
 now is, and his Assigns, subject and liable,
 with the Residue of the said ninety-five thou-
 sand Acres, to the same Taxes and Charges
 before specified. And because the said Great
 Level of the Fens extends into the said five
 Counties, besides the Isle of *Ely*, and foras-
 much as Commissioners of Sewers cannot le-
 gally proceed in Execution of their Commis-
 sion, but by a several Jury of every County
 to enquire of the Matters within their Com-
 mission in that County, which hath heretofore
 enforced the said Earl, his Participants and
 Adventurers, Commissioners and Countries,
 to very great Trouble, Loss and Expence,
 both of Money and Time; for avoiding
 which Inconveniencies, It is hereby further
 enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the
 said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of

10000 Acres
 vested in the
 King, subject
 to Taxes.

Commissioners
 of Sewers
 constituted.

And Conservators, or any five or more of
 them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs,
 and their Successors, or any of them, to be
 two, are hereby enabled and impowered from
 henceforth to use and exercise the Power
 and Authority of Commissioners of Sewers
 within the said Great Level of the Fens, ^{Within}
 and of the Works made or to be made with- ^{Level, a}
 out the said Great Level, for conveying of the ^{Works w}
 Waters of the said Great Level by conveni- ^{out.}
 ent Outfalls to the Sea, touching all Mat-
 ters and Things whatsoever happening to
 be executed or done within the said Great
 Level, or the said Works without the said Great
 Level, enquirable, punishable, or to be done
 by Commissioners of Sewers, and therein to
 act and proceed by one or more Juries of good ^{Proceed}
 and lawful Men, inhabiting within any Part ^{one Jury}
 or Place within the Boundaries of the said
 Great Level of the Fens, though in several
 Counties, as if the said Great Level of the
 Fens lay within one of the said Counties
 only, and shall have Power to imploy the
 said Serjeants, or any of them for the Time
 being, by Warrant or Precept from the said ^{Award F}
 Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, and ^{cepts to}
 their Successors, or any five or more of ^{mon and}
 them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs, ^{turn Jury}
 or any of them, to be two, under the Com-
 mon Seal of the said Corporation, to sum-
 mon and return Juries within the Bound-
 aries of any Part of the said Great Level,
 and execute all Precepts and Process from
 them, from Time to Time, and all other Things

Juries to appear.

Try all Matters within the Power of Commissioners of Sewers.

Laws and Customs of Rumney-Marsh.

do, as fully as any Sheriff within his respective County may or can do by Warrant or Precept from Commissioners of Sewers; which Juries are to appear at the Times and Places set or appointed for them to appear before the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, and their Successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor and Bailiffs, and their Successors, or any of them, to be two; and are hereby empowered to inquire of, present and try all Matters within the said Great Level, and of and concerning the said Works made or to be made without the said Great Level, for conveying of the Waters of the said Great Level by convenient Outfalls to the Sea, within the Power of Commissioners of Sewers, as if the same lay within any one of the said Counties, or as if the said Great Level were one distinct County of itself: And the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, shall have further Power, as well for the Maintenance of the said Great Level as for laying and levying of Taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to use and exercise, within the said Great Level, such and the like Laws and Customs, and constitute and appoint such and the like Officers, from Time to Time, as are, or lawfully may be used in *Rumney-Marsh* in the County of *Kent*; they who exercise the said Power of Commissioners of Sewers first taking

aking the Oath which Commissioners of
sewers are by the Law to take, the which
Oath the said Governor and Bailiffs, or any
of them, are hereby impowered to admini-
ster from Time to Time without any further
Commission.

VI. **And** because the Metes and Bounda-
ries of the said Grounds within the said Great Counties, Pa-
Level, as to the Counties and Parishes, are ^{Mistakes of} ^{parishes, &c.}
very uncertain and hard to be distinguished, ^{supplied.}
Be it therefore further enacted, That every
Writ, Bill, Complaint, Count, Declaration,
Information, Presentment and Indictment,
of, for, or concerning the said Grounds
within the said Great Level of the Fens,
or any Part or Parcel of the same, or any
Trespas, Offence or Wrong done, acted or
committed within the said Great Level, and
Proceedings thereupon, shall be good and
sufficient in Law, though the County, Pa-
rish, Town or Place, or any of them, in
such Writ, Bill, Complaint, Count, Declara-
tion, Information, Presentment or Indict-
ment be not rightly named, so as there be
such other Certainty or Description of the
Place whereby the same is or may be com-
monly known.

VII. **And** be it further enacted, That no ^{No other Com-}
other Commissioners of Sewers shall inter- ^{missioners of}
meddle within the said Great Level, or with ^{Sewers to in-}
any the Works made or to be made for Sup- ^{termeddle.}
port, Maintenance or Preservation of the
said Great Level, within or without the said
Great Level, as aforesaid, otherwise than
hereafter in this Act shall be provided.

all Convey-
ances of the
5000 Acres
to be entered
and to pass the
Freehold.

No Lease,
Grant, &c. to
be of Force
out from En-
try,
except Leases
for seven
Years.

To execute

VIII. And be it further enacted, That all Conveyances by Indenture of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof entered within the said Register in a Book to be kept for that Purpose, shall be of equal Force to convey the Freehold and Inheritance of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, as if the same Conveyances by Indenture were for valuable Considerations of Money enrolled within six Months in one of the King's Courts of Record at *Westminster*; And no Lease, Grant, or Conveyance of, or Charge out of, or upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, except Leases for seven Years or under, in Possession, shall be of Force but from the Time it shall be entered with the said Register as aforesaid, the Entry whereof being endorsed by the said Register upon such Lease, Grant, Conveyance or Charge, shall be as good and effectual in the Law, as if the original Book of Entries were produced at any Trial at Law, or otherwise.

IX. And be it further enacted, That

hirtieth Day of *September* in the Year of
 ur Lord one thousand six hundred fifty and
 eight, (other than such as are hereby other-^{other than,}
 wise directed to be levied) or which shall be ^{&c.}
 et and imposed upon the said ninety-five
 thousand Acres by Virtue of this Act, and
 shall be in Arrear upon the respective Parts
 and Proportions of the said ninety-five thou-
 sand Acres, the said Governor, Bailiffs and
 Conservators of the said Corporation, and
 their Successors for the Time being, or any
 five or more of them, whereof the said Go-
 vernor and Bailiffs for the Time being, and
 their Successors, or any of them, to be
 two, for levying such Taxes and Penal-
 ties which now are or shall be so in Arrear,
 upon the respective Parts and Proportions of
 the said ninety-five thousand Acres, shall, on
Wednesday and *Thursday* in *Whitsun* Week, ^{Whitsun}
 or either of them, every Year at the Shire- ^{Week to sell,}
 House in *Ely* aforesaid in the said Isle of *Ely*,
 have Power only to sell so much of such
 Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-
 five thousand Acres, upon which any Tax
 shall be in Arrear, or Penalties in such Pro-
 portion, as the said Governor, Bailiffs and
 Conservators of the said Corporation, or
 their Successors, or any five or more of them,
 whereof the said Governor and Bailiffs, or
 any of them, to be two, shall judge to be
 sufficient to raise such Taxes and Penalties,
 by any Writing under the Seal of the said
 Corporation; and the Person or Persons to ^{Lawful} Pur-
 whom such Sales shall be made, shall be a ^{chafer.} lawful

lawful Purchaser and Assignee of so much as shall be sold, to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever.

aving to Te-
ants to conti-
ue.

XI. **Provided**, That by any Colour of any Sale for Non-payment of Taxes, any Tenant or Tenants at Will, or by Lease Indented upon improved Rent of any Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, shall not be removed from his or their Possession, until he or they shall have taken his or their Crop from off the Premises so sold, paying reasonable Rent, proportionable to the Time that such Possession shall from and after such Sales be continued; And such Tenant or Tenants, as shall hold any Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres by Lease, as aforesaid, shall and may, if he or they shall think meet, continue out their respective Terms, paying their Rent to such Purchaser in Proportion to the Quantity of Acres so purchased; any Thing herein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding: **Provided**, That the said Corporation, nor their Successors, shall not sell any Part or Proportion of the said ninety-five thousand

rovided, &c.

Take Acres

ninety-five thousand Acres, for which any Tax or Penalties is or shall be in Arrear, by exhibiting openly at the Shire-House or Market-place in *Ely* aforesaid, a Schedule in Parchment under the Seal of the said Corporation, containing such Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, for which any Tax or Penalty is or shall be in Arrear, with the Name and Names of the respective Owner or Owners, entered upon the Tax Roll, with the said Corporation, of the said Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres so in Arrear.

XIII. And be it further enacted, That the said Corporation shall and may, from Time to Time, erect any new Works within the said Great Level or without the said Great Level, for conveying the Waters of the said Great Level by convenient Out-falls to the Sea; so always that if they cut any several Grounds, they give full Recompence and Satisfaction for the same, in such Manner as shall be hereafter in this Act provided. And if any Person or Persons shall cut, throw down, or destroy any of the said Works made or to be made, as aforesaid, the Parties offending shall answer treble Damages to the said Corporation, and Costs of Suit, to be Recovered in an Action of Trespas to be brought by the said Corporation in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record; And if such cutting, throwing down, or destroying, shall be maliciously done, the same shall be punished, as for the cutting the Podyke in Marsh Land.

Corporation may erect new Works within or without the Level.

If cut several Grounds to give Satisfaction.

To destroy Works treble Damages;

if maliciously done, Felony.

XIV.

Officers be
worn.

XIV. **And** be it further enacted, That the said *William Earl of Bedford*, nominated to be Governor, and every other from Time to Time into that Office chosen, shall (before he take upon him or them the Exercise of that Office) take an Oath, That he will well and truly execute that Office in all Things; the which Oath shall and may be administered by the said Bailiffs, or any one of them: And the said Bailiffs, Conservators, Register, Receiver, or other Officer nominated as aforesaid, and every other from Time to Time, into any of the respective Offices to be chosen, shall (before he or they take upon him or them the Exercise of the said respective Offices) take the like Oath for the true Executing their respective Offices; the which Oath shall be administered by the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators, or any two or more of them, without any Commission or further Warrant.

New Elections
in Whitsun
Week.

XV. **And** for the Continuance of the said Corporation in Succession for ever, Be it further enacted, That the said Governor, Bailiffs, Conservators and Commonalty, upon *Wednesday* in *Whitsun Week* yearly, shall at a pub-

five thousand Acres, nor to be Conserva-
 tor that hath not two hundred Acres, or ^{200 Acres.}
 more, of the said ninety-five thousand Acres,
 nor any of the Commonalty to have a Voice ^{Commonalty}
 in Elections that hath not one hundred Acres, ^{100 Acres.}
 or more, of the said ninety-five thousand
 Acres. And that the said Governor, Bailiffs
 and Conservators, or any of them, shall and
 may be removed by the said Governor, Bai- ^{May be re-}
 liffs, and Conservators, and Commonalty, ^{moved;}
 or the greater Number of them present at
 their publick Meetings, whereof the said
 Governor or one of the Bailiffs to be one,
 and new chosen in the Place of him or them
 so dead or removed: And the said Governor,
 Bailiffs and Commonalty also shall have
 further Power to have, demand, and receive ^{To demand}
 an Accompt from all and every the Officers, ^{Accompts}
 Agents, and Servants, their Executors, and ^{from Officers.}
 Administrators heretofore employed, or here-
 after to be employed, for the Receiving
 and Paying of Money for or in Relation
 to the carrying on of the Works of the
 Draining of the said Great Level, and shall
 and may sue for, and recover the same; and
 that all Arrears of Rent already incurred ^{Arrears of}
 upon or out of any Part of the said ninety- ^{Rent may be}
 five thousand Acres upon any Contract or ^{recovered.}
 Lease of the said Premises, or any Part or
 Parcel thereof, shall be received and reco-
 vered, as if the said pretended Act had been
 a good and effectual Act; And if any Suit
 be commenced against the said Corporation, or
 any Person, for any Matter or Thing done in
 Pursuance of this Act, then he or they shall or
 may

Plead General Issue. may plead the General Issue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence, upon any Trial to be had touching the same, which shall be as good and effectual in Law, as if the same had been specially pleaded, and the Jury upon the Trial to give a Verdict accordingly.

King to have such Title to the 83000 as any Persons attainted had. XVI. **Provided** always, and be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That as touching and concerning such Part and Parcel of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, whereof any Person or Persons attainted, or that shall be attainted, was or were in Possession at any Time since the nine and twentieth Day of *May* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred forty and nine, under pretended Sales thereof respectively made by colour of the said pretended Act, or under any other Title or pretended Title whatsoever, the King's most Excellent Majesty, his Heirs, Successors and Assigns, shall have the same and like Benefit, Advantage and Interest in all and every the said Parts and Parcels of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, and no other than as the said Persons so attainted, or which shall be attainted, could or ought to have by Virtue of this Act in Case they had not been so attainted, or shall not be attainted. And whereas the Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of and in the said ninety-five thousand Acres, which in Pursuance of the said Indenture of Fourteen Parts, and by Virtue or Intention of the said Act and Law of Sewers made.

made at *Lynn*, do belong and appertain to the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, or his Trustees, *Sir William Terringham*, *Sir Richard Onslow*, and other the Assignees and Trustees of *Henry* late Earl of *Arundel* and *Surrey* deceased, *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesey*, *Thomas* Lord *Culpepper*, *Robert Phillips*, *Robert Scawen*, and to divers other Persons, the Participants of the said Earl *Francis*; and Parties to the said Indenture, or their respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns, are now possessed and enjoyed by divers Persons, who took, contracted for, or accepted of, or by such who claim and derive their Interest and Title from and under such Persons as did take, contract for, or accept of pretended Estates or Conveyances of the same, made, or pretended to be made by certain Persons mentioned in and by the said pretended Act of the nine and twentieth Day of *May* one thousand six hundred forty and nine, to have Authority to sell the Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of such of the Adventurers and Participants of the said Earl *Francis*, and of their respective Heirs and Assigns, as should refuse or make Default of Payment of such Taxes, as should by Colour and in Pursuance of the said pretended Act be imposed upon them respectively, in respect of their Shares and Lots, in or out of the said ninety-five thousand Acres.

Recital of
Shares sold by
the Act of
May 1649.

XVII. Be it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the said Company of Conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, Corporation to stand seised for *Sandys* and other Persons, their Heirs and Assigns.

Pens, and their Successors, shall actually
 stand seised and possessed of all and every the
 Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions last
 mentioned, in Trust nevertheless to and for
 the Use and Behoof of the said *Samuel Sandys*
 the Elder, or his Trustees in Trust for him,
Sir William Terringham, Sir Richard Onslow,
 and others the said Assignees and Trustees
 of *Henry* late Earl of *Arundel* and *Surrey*
 deceased, *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesey, Thomas Lord*
Culpepper, Robert Phillips, Robert Scawen, and
 of their respective Heirs and Assigns, and to
 and for the respective Uses and Behoofs of the
 said other Persons, the Participants of the
 said Earl *Francis,* and Parties to the said In-
 denture of Fourteen Parts, and of their re-
 spective Heirs and Assigns now out of posses-
 sion of their respective Shares, Lots, Parts
 and Proportions of the said ninety-five thou-
 sand Acres, as heretofore in or about the
 Month of *October* in the thirteenth Year
 of the Reign of the late King *Charles* of
 ever blessed Memory, were respectively al-
 lotted, severed, set forth or divided, for or as
 the respective Shares, Lots, Parts and Pro-

as Lord Culpepper, Robert Phillips, Robert
cawen, and the said other Persons, the Par-
 ticipants of the said Earl *Francis*, and their
 respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators
 and Assigns, now out of Possession of their
 respective Shares, Lots, Parts and Propor-
 tions, do respectively claim and derive their
 said Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions;
 And the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Com-
 monalty of the Company of Conserva-
 tors, are hereby authorized and required to
 execute respective Estates of the said Shares,
 Lots, Parts and Proportions accordingly,
 subject and liable nevertheless with the Re-
 sidue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres,
 in equal Proportion to all Taxes and Charges
 to be laid and imposed by Virtue of this Act,
 for Preservation of the said Great Level from
 drowning. And whereas the Persons now
 in Possession of the said last mentioned
 Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of
 the said ninety-five thousand Acres, where-
 of pretended Estates and Conveyances were
 taken, contracted for, or accepted of, as afore-
 said, do pretend that they or those under
 whom they do respectively claim and derive
 their Right, Title or Pretensions to the said
 Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions re-
 spectively, have laid out and disbursed for
 Taxes for and towards the Maintenance,
 Preservation and Repair of the Works of
 the said Great Level heretofore erected by the
 said Earl *Francis* and his Participants, and
 for and towards their Erection of new and
 necessary Works, for the better and more ef-
 fectual

To execute
 Estates to
 them,

as to Purcha-
 sers under the
 pretended Act.

fectual Draining of the said Great Level, and for Building upon the said Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions, more Monies than the clear Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions have amounted to since the said respective pretended Estates and Conveyances were first taken, contracted for or accepted, as aforesaid :

Judicature
erected to pro-
ceed by Bill
and Answer.

XVIII. ~~Be~~ it therefore enacted by the Authority aforesaid, and it is hereby enacted, That the Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, the Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, the Chief Baron of the Court of Exchequer, and the Justices of the said Court of Common Pleas for the Time being, or any two or more of them, are hereby constituted, appointed, and erected a Judicature, or Commissioners to hear, order, judge, decree and determine upon Bills and Answers, to be exhibited, or otherwise as they shall think fit, between the said Persons who are now in the Possession of the said respective Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions, and the respective Heirs and Assigns of the said Persons now in Possession, as aforesaid ; And the said Sir *Richard Onslow*, and other the said Assignees and Trustees of the said *Henry* late Earl of *Arundel* and *Surrey* deceased, *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesey*, *Thomas* Lord *Culpepper*, the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, or his Trustees, Sir *William Terringham*, *Robert Phillips*, *Robert Scawen*, and the said other Persons Participants of the said Earl *Francis*, and their respective Heirs and Assigns,

signs, who are now out of the Possession of the said Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions respectively, and to whom respective States are, by Virtue of this Act, to be executed of the same, as aforesaid; And the said Judicature or Commissioners, or any two or more of them are hereby authorized out of the said Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions, to order, adjudge, decree and determine to either of the said Parties respectively, such Recompence and Allowance as they the said Judicature or Commissioners, or any two or more of them shall see Cause. And for the better enabling the said Judicature or Commissioners to proceed to the hearing, ordering, adjudging, decreeing and determining, and for putting in due and speedy Execution such Order, Judgment, Decree and Determination, as they or any two or more of them shall make between the said Parties;

XIX. It is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That they the said Judicature or Commissioners, or any two or more of them, shall have such and the like Power and Authority, as the High Court of Chancery hath in Cases before the said Court depending, and for putting in Execution the Decrees of the said Court. And to the End that the said Judicature may be the better enabled to judge of the Rights and Pretensions of either Party;

XX. Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in every Decree or Determination which they shall make by Virtue of this Act, they shall be bound to pay the Costs and Expenses of the said Parties, and to make good the same to the Party who shall be entitled to the same.

Abating Pro-
fits received,
and Interest.

After six
Months may
bring Actions
although
Estates not
executed.

and in Pursuance of this Act, they shall have Regard to the Sum and Sums of Money actually disbursed and expended by either Party in the Works of Draining the said Great Level, and in the Preservation and Reparation of the same; and also to the respective Times of such Disbursements and Expence, defalking thereout such Sum and Sums of Money as have been received by either Party, their Tenants or Assigns, for the Rents, Issues and Profits of the same, and abating out of the Interest of the Money disbursed by either Party, so much as the Interest of the Money received by such Party, for the Rents, Issues and Profits of the same doth amount unto. And to the Intent that the Persons, who by the true Intent and Meaning of this Act are to be put in Possession of any Part of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, may not, by undue Delays, or by any other Means or Pretensions, be kept out of the Possession of the same;

XXI. *Be* it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That at any Time or Times, after the Expiration of six Months after the Passing of this Act, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, and his Trustees for him, *Sir Richard Onslow*, and others the Assignees and Trustees of *Henry* late Earl of *Arrundel* and *Surry* deceased, *Arthur* Earl of *Anglesey*, *Thomas* Lord *Culpepper*, *Sir William Terringham*, *Robert Phillips* and *Robert Scawen*, their and every of their respective Heirs and Assigns, and to and for the Participants of the said Earl *Francis*,

Francis, Parties to the said Indenture of Fourteen Parts, their and every of their respective Heirs and Assigns, whose Lands, Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of and in the said ninety-five thousand Acres, were sold, or pretended to be sold, for Non-payment of Taxes, by Virtue of the said pretended Act of the nine and twentieth Day of *May* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred forty and nine, to bring their respective Action or Actions of Trespass, or Trespass and Ejectment, in his Majesty's Court of King's Bench, or Court of Common Pleas at *Westminster*, against any Person or Persons whatsoever, possessing, withholding, or occupying the same, although the said Governor, Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or so many and Bailiff and such of them as are thereunto authorized by Conservators, this present Act, have not or shall not execute or so many or Estates pursuant to this present Act, to such such of them as are thereunto authorized. Person or Persons hereby enabled to bring such Action or Actions; and such Person or Persons shall recover such Lands, Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as they respectively shall make and derive Title and Claim unto, as Participants of the said *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, Parties to the said Indenture of Fourteen Parts, or as the respective Claim under Fourteen Parts Indenture, Heirs or Assigns of the said respective Participants, Parties to the said Indenture of Fourteen Parts, as if the said Governor, as if the Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators had duly executed Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators had duly executed respective Estates of such respective Lands, Shares, executed Estates.

Shares, Lots, Parts and Proportions of
said ninety-five thousand Acres, according
to the true Intent and Meaning of the
Act. And such Person or Persons, his
Governor, their respective Heirs and Assigns, shall
Bailiffs, and and hold the same Lands, Shares, Lots
Conservators, Parts and Proportions, as fully and effectually
had executed Estates subjectally as if the said Governor, Bailiffs
to the Indenture. Conservators had executed respective Estates
thereof, subject nevertheless to such Decree
the said Judicature or Commissioners be
nominated and appointed shall make touching
ing or concerning the Premises, and be
subject to the Payment of all Taxes
be laid and imposed by Virtue of the
Taxes Arrear Act, and no other. And whereas there
upon Lands in are several Sums of Money amounting to
Dispute. four thousand Pounds or thereabouts,
Arrear for Taxes laid and imposed since the
nine and twentieth Day of *September* in the
Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred
fifty and eight, upon several Parts of the
said ninety-five thousand Acres, subject
by this Act to the Judicature aforesaid, and
for Penalties incurred for Non-payment
the same, by Virtue or Colour of some

jected to their Judicature as aforesaid, to direct, order and decree, upon what Persons or Lands, the said Sums of Money so in Arrear for Taxes and Penalties as aforesaid, shall be charged, and the said Taxes and Penalties shall be accordingly levied upon such Persons or Lands, and in such Manner, and by such Ways and Means as shall be directed, ordered and decreed by the Judicature aforesaid, or any two of them; And as if such Direction, Order and Decree had been particularly hereby enacted.

XXIII. **AND** whereas particular Persons and Parishes do conceive and alledge, That the Draining of one Place hath drowned and made worse the Lands in other Places: And whereas divers Persons likewise do alledge and complain, That the said ninety-five thousand Acres in many Places are not indifferently set out or allotted according to the Law made at *Lynn* in the sixth Year of the late King *Charles*, nor according to Agreement made with the Country; but in many Places greater Quantities have been taken from the Owners, Commoners, and Townships than ought to have been; and that some Lands have been taken as belonging to one Parish and County, which in Truth did belong to another; and in many Places the Allotments have been taken very inconvenient for the Townships, which ought not to have been by the said Agreement: And whereas the Draining aforesaid, and future Maintenance

Complains recited.
Without Prejudice to Navigation.

tenance of the said Great Level ought to be without Prejudice to Navigation. And because all Complaints which have been made, and all Prejudices which have been or shall be done to particular Persons, Parishes and Places, cannot by this Act be sufficiently provided for and remedied;

ommissio-
ns.

XXIV. Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That Sir *John Tray*, Knight, Sir *Charles Mordant*, Sir *Nicholas L'Strange*, Baronets, Sir *William Hood*, Knight, *Edward Pepis*, *Humphrey Beddingfield*, *Nicholas Stileman*, Esquires, for the County of Norfolk;

Sir *Nicholas Bacon*, Knight of the Bath, Sir *Lyonel Tolimach*, Baronet, Sir *John Duncomb*, Knight, Sir *Edmond Pooley*, Knight, Sir *George Reve*, Knight and Baronet, Sir *George Wene*, Knight, *Thomas Waldgrave*, Esq; for the County of Suffolk;

Sir *Dudley North*, Sir *Thomas Went*, Knights of the Bath, *Levinus Bennet*, Esq; *Robert King*, *John Pepis*, Doctors of the Law, *Thomas Crouch*, *Francis North*, Esquires, for

Sir *William Dudley*, Knight and Baronet, *Maurice Trefham*, *Francis Kirkham*, *Lewis Patner*, *Christopher Thursby*, *Francis Lane*, *George Trefham*, Esquires, for the County of *Nor-*
thampton;

Sir *Charles Hussey*, Sir *John Newton*, Baronet, Sir *Thomas Meeres*, Sir *Anthony Irby*, Knights, Sir *Anthony Oldfield*, Baronet, *Richard Brownlow*, *Daniel Rhodes*, Esquires, for the County of *Lincoln*, shall be and are hereby made and constituted the present Commissioners for the Purposes herein mentioned.

XXV. And for the supplying the Number of To supply
the Commissioners of the said respective Counties, in Case of Death or other Avoidance, or Defects of
Incapacity; Be it also enacted, That within Commissioners.
three Months after such Death or Notice of
such Avoidance or Incapacity of the remain-
ing Commissioners of each respective County,
of which such Commissioners who died or be-
came incapable were, or the major Part of
them, shall from Time to Time nominate and
appoint, by Deed under their Hands and Seals,
to be enrolled in *Chancery*, some other Person
or Persons residing within the said County of
which the said Commissioners who died or be-
came incapable were, to be Commissioners
in the Place and Stead of him or them so
dying or becoming incapable, which said
Commissioners hereby constituted, or hereafter
to be constituted in Manner aforesaid, or any Seven or more
seven or more of them be, are and shall to hear Com-
be hereby authorized and empowered from plaints,
Time to Time to hear and determine such
Complaints, Controversies, Differences and

as is herein
expressed.

Before September 1666, to
give Satisfaction for Lands,
or Interest, made worse
since May 1663, than in
6 Car.

Quality or
Condition.

Grievances as are in this Act expressed (relating to, or concerning, or occasioned by the Draining and Maintaining the said Great Level) of any Parish or Township, or of any Person or Persons, as well within or without the said Level, in such Manner as is herein after expressed; And that the said Commissioners hereby constituted, or hereafter to be constituted in Manner afore said, or any seven or more of them, shall from Time to Time have Power and Authority, and are hereby required, at or before the eight and twentieth Day of *September* which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and six, to give or make Satisfaction out of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to such Parish or Township, Person or Persons, whose Lands or Interest therein, either within or without the said Level, shall, after the first Day of *May* one thousand six hundred sixty and three, be made worse in Quality or Condition by the afore said Draining or Works, than they were before the Undertaking the Draining of the said Level, in the sixth Year of the Reign of our late King *Charles* of Blessed Memory, and proportionable to the Losses the Owners of or Persons interested in such Lands shall hereafter receive, by reason of their Lands being made worse in Quality or Condition by any such Works and Draining as afore said, and shall also have Power, at any Time within four Years from the four and twentieth Day of *June* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and three, to alter, change and restore such Parts
and

and Parcels of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as shall upon Complaint be found and adjudged by the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, to be unequally, unduly, or inconveniently set forth, by reason of any allotting either of greater Quantities, or as belonging to other Counties, Parishes or Manors, or in more inconvenient Places than they were formerly allotted and set out by a Law of Sewers made at *St. Ives* the twelfth Day of *October* in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the First, notwithstanding any Vesting of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof in the King's Majesty, or in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or in any other Persons before-mentioned, or any Estates executed by them or any of them.

Provided, and be it enacted, That ninety-three Acres in *Raveley* and *Upwood*, seventy-six Acres in *Sotbery*, forty-four Acres and one Rood in *Wicken*, eighty-eight Acres in *Cowfenn*, two hundred eighty-two Acres in *Beezling*, and thirty-seven Acres in *Upwell*, set out to be enjoyed as Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres since the making the said Law of *St. Ives*, in lieu of like Proportions altered and restored to the Country, shall be held and enjoyed by the said Corporation; subject nevertheless to the Trust in and by this Act declared, as to the said eighty-three thousand Acres, Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres; and shall set forth to the said Corporation, in Trust for the Participants or Adventurers, whose Proportion shall be so altered or exchanged in lieu of such Part as shall be so altered, exchanged or restored, such

Restore Proportions set out contrary to *St. Ives's* Law.

St. Ives.

Alterations by Commissioners excepted.

To set out other Proportions where any Alterations.

such other Proportions in such other Place within the said Level, as to the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall seem just and reasonable, according to the Proportions and Places which ought and might have been by *Lynn* and *St. Ives* Law aforesaid to be held and enjoyed of the Manor of *East-Greenwich*, to the End there may be no Diminution of the said ninety-five thousand Acres; And where it shall appear, upon Complaint of the said Corporation before the said Commissioners or any seven or more of them, that any of the Proportions of the said ninety-five thousand Acres heretofore set forth to *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, his then Participants and Assigns, do fall short in the Quantity of Acres for which the same were set forth and allotted, according to the said Laws of *Lynn* and *St. Ives*, the said Commissioners or any seven or more of them shall, within the said Term of four Years aforesaid, appoint the same to be supplied and made up out of the Grounds where the same was so allotted to be set forth, to make up the said Proportion of ninety-five thousand Acres. And in Case the

water, being a Branch of the River of Ouse, if it be consistent with the Draining, or in any of them, or such Drove-ways or Bridges within and without the said Level, as have been made or caused to be made by the Adventurers, and have been by them maintained, unless there be some Agreement to the contrary, be or hereafter shall be interrupted, obstructed and made worse, that then the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, whereof the Vice-chancellor for the University of Cambridge, the Mayor of the Town of Cambridge, and the Mayor of the Town of King's Lynn, for the Time being, to be three, if they upon Notice left at their respective Habitations shall think fit to be present, from Time to Time, shall and may decree the same to be made good and amended, at the proper Costs and Charges of the said Corporation, within a convenient Time as to their Judgments shall seem meet: And in Case it shall happen and so fall out, that the said Corporation shall neglect or refuse to repair and make good the same, according to the Order and Decree of the said Commissioners and within the Time limited by them, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals attested, to tax the said ninety-five thousand Acres in such Sum and Sums of Money as in their Judgments shall seem meet, for the making, preserving and keeping the Navigation in any of the aforesaid Rivers, as the same was in the said sixth Year of the said King Charles the First; which said Sum

Drove-ways or Bridges, if obstructed, interrupted or made worse,

Commissioners may decree to be amended, at the Charges of the Corporation.

Upon Refusal, to tax the 95000 Acres, for preserving of Navigation, as 6 Ca..

Sum or Sums of Money, so to be assessed or taxed by the Commissioners aforesaid, shall, within twenty Days next after Notice thereof given to the Governor or Treasurer of the said Corporation, be paid unto such Person or Persons as the said Commissioners shall nominate and appoint to receive the same. And in Case the said Governor or Treasurer of the said Corporation, after Notice so given as aforesaid, shall refuse or neglect to pay the said Sum or Sums as aforesaid, That then the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall have full Power and Authority to impower the said Person or Persons to levy the said Sum or Sums of Money by Distress or Distresses to be taken upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, and to make Sale of the said Distress or Distresses so taken, and sell the same, and render the Overplus unto the said Governor or Treasurer, deducting the reasonable Charges for their Labour and Pains therein: All which said Sum or Sums of Money so to be taxed and levied by the Authority aforesaid, shall be expended and laid out in preserving and keeping the said Navigation as aforesaid, and maintaining the same according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Statute, and not otherwise. And the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, are also hereby impowered and authorized, within the Space of four Years from the four and twentieth Day of *June* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and three, to ascertain and divide the Precincts and Boundaries of such Parts of the said respective Counties, Lordships,

Upon Refusal
to pay, may
distrain upon
any Part of the
95000 Acres.

Money to be
laid out to pre-
serve Naviga-
tion.

To ascertain
Bounds of
Counties,
&c.

Manors and Parishes within the said Level, as have been by and since the Under-
 ing defaced and made obscure, or by some
 Means remain uncertain and hard to be
 and out, and shall set down such Bounds and
 visions in Writing, by such Marks, Bounda-
 s and Descriptions as to them shall seem
 best, and shall certify the same under their
 Hands and Seals in the High Court of Chan-
 cery, according to which Division of the said
 Commissioners, or any seven or more of them,
 the Extent of the said respective Counties,
 Lordships, Manors and Parishes in such Places
 so bounded and divided, shall for ever after
 the said Certificate be deemed to be and none
 other: And in Case the Quantity of eight
 thousand Acres lying together or near toge-
 ther, or any greater Quantity of Ground
 lying together, or near together within the
 the said Level, shall become drowned, and
 so continue for the Space of twelve Months
 together, That then it shall be lawful for
 the said Commissioners for the Time being,
 or any seven or more of them, from Time to
 Time and at all Times, to assess Taxes or
 Sums of Money upon the said ninety-five
 thousand Acres, for the raising Money for
 draining the same again, in such Proportion as
 they, or any seven or more of them, shall
 think fit, together with a Penalty for not pay-
 ing the said Taxes, the said Penalty not exceed-
 ing a third Part of such Tax.

Certify into
 the Chancery.

If 8000 Acres
 drowned
 twelve
 Months,

Commissioners
 may lay Taxes
 upon the
 95000 Acres.

XXVII. And for Default of Payment of Sequester for
 the said Taxes or Sums of Money and Penal- Non-payment
 ties, Be it enacted, That the Lot and Share of
 such Participant or Adventurer of and within
 the

the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as shall be in Arrear for the said Tax, Sum of Money, or Penalty, and unpaid by Space of two Months next after the Day appointed for Payment by the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, or so much thereof as they shall think fit, shall be sequestered by the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, for or towards the Payment of such Tax, Sum of Money, or Penalty so in Arrear, restoring the Overplus of the Money, for which such Lot or Share or any Part thereof shall be sequestered, if any be : Which Sequestration shall be made in Writing under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners for the Time being, or any seven or more of them.

particular
venturers
rained.

XXVIII. **Provided** always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in Case the said Governor, Bailiffs and Corporation constituted by this Act, shall neglect or refuse to pay such Tax or Taxes and Penalties, Sum or Sums of Money, as shall from Time to Time hereafter be taxed and imposed by the said Commissioners before named, or to be

Taxes and Penalties so assessed and imposed as aforesaid, That then the said Governor, Bailiffs and Corporation, immediately from and after Notice to him or them given thereof, shall assess and tax the whole ninety-five thousand Acres for the Satisfaction and Payment of the Tax, Taxes and Penalties, Sum and Sums of Money, and all Damages, that such Person or Persons, his or their Tenant or Tenants hath or have paid, born or sustained as aforesaid.

XXIX. **And** be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if the said Governor, Bailiffs and Corporation shall not, within six Months next after Demand made by such Person or Persons, his and their Heirs, Executors and Administrators, whose own, or Tenant or Tenants Goods and Chattels shall be distrained or sold, or Lands sequestered as aforesaid, pay and satisfy unto him or them such Sum and Sums of Money, and Damages, as he or they, or his and their respective Tenant or Tenants have respectively paid, born and sustained, that then and from thenceforth such Person and Persons, his and their Heirs and Assigns, shall and may bring his and their Action or Actions of Debt in any of the King's Majesty's Courts at *Westminster*, against the said Governor, Bailiffs and Corporation, for the Recovery thereof, and by Virtue of this Act shall recover the same, and be allowed Costs of Suit expended therein.

For Default of
Payment; Ac-
tion of Debt
against the
Corporation.

XXX. **And** be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners may swear
so Witnesses.

so constituted or to be hereafter constituted as aforesaid, or any seven or more of them, for the better Execution of the Powers hereby given, shall and may inform themselves by examining Witnesses upon Oath, which hereby they, or any seven or more of them, shall have Power to administer due Execution of all, every or any the Powers or Authorities hereby given them, and for the doing Justice therein accordingly.

o Commis-
sioners to act till
orn.

XXXI. **Provided** always, That the said Commissioners and every of them, before he or they take upon him or them the Execution of any the Powers or Authorities hereby given them, other than the Administring the Oath following to one another, which they shall have Authority by this present Act to administer to one another, shall take the Oath following (*viz.*)

I A. B. shall and will, without Favour or Affection, Hatred or Malice, truly and impartially, according to the best of my Skill and Knowledge, execute and perform all and every the Powers and Authorities established by this Act of

or hereafter to be constituted as aforesaid, or of any seven or more of them respectively, pursuant to the Powers and Authorities by this Act given, shall be final; and that the first Time and Place of their Meeting shall be at or before the two and twentieth Day of *September* in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and three, at *Ely*.

XXXIII. And that afterwards the usual Places of Places where the said Commissioners shall sit Commissioners to hear, order and determine the Matters to Meeting. them referred by this Act, shall, from the nine and twentieth Day of *September* to the six and twentieth Day of *March* in every Year, be at the Town of *Huntingdon*; and, from the five and twentieth Day of *March* till the thirtieth Day of *September* in every Year, be at *Ely*, unless the said Commissioners hereby constituted, or hereafter to be constituted as aforesaid, or any seven or more of them, shall appoint some other Place or Places, being a Market Town or Towns; And the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall, by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, declare the Places and Times of their After-Meeting, which Warrant shall be published in the open Market of such respective Places where they last sat, between the Hours of twelve and two, upon some Market Day, one Month at the least before the said Time or Times of Meeting; To the End all Persons concerned may have sufficient Time and Notice to make their Appearance before them upon any Cause of Complaint, or other Occasion; And shall have Power and Authority,

thority, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of any seven or more of them, to summon Parties and Witnesſes to appear before them.

Commissioners not to vote in Bounds of their Counties. XXXIV. *Provided*, That none of the ſaid Commissioners hereby conſtituted, or hereafter to be conſtituted as aforeſaid, ſhall vote or give his Judgment or Determination in any Matter or Thing which concerns the Diviſion or Bounds of the County, of or for which he is appointed Commissioner.

XXXV. *Provided* alſo, That no Perſon who hath any Part, Share or Intereſt in Poſſeſſion, or Reverſion of or in any Manors or Lands within the ſaid Level, ſhall be a Commissioner.

XXXVI. *And* in Caſe of Deſcent, Gift, Deviſe or Purchase of any ſuch Part, Share or Intereſt to or by any of the ſaid Commissioners, It is hereby declared and enacted, That immediately after ſuch Deſcent, Gift, Deviſe or Purchase to or by any ſuch Commissioner, the ſaid Deſcent, Gift, Deviſe or Purchase ſhall be an Avoidance of his being a Commissioner; and ſhall make him be incapable of being again nominated or appointed a Commissioner, whiſt his Intereſt doth remain.

Make Satisfaction for Lands pejo-rated by new Works. XXXVII. *Provided* alſo, and the ſaid Commissioners for the Time being, or any ſeven or more of them, ſhall from Time to Time and at all Times have Power and Authority to give and make Satisfaction, out of the ninety-five thouſand Acres, to ſuch Perſon or Perſons whoſe Lands or Intereſt therein (by any new Works hereafter to be made by the ſaid Corporation without the ſaid Level, for conveying of the Waters of the ſaid Level
by

ry convenient Outfalls to the Sea) shall be made worse in Quality, Condition or Value, than they were before the said Undertaking in the said sixth Year of the said late King *Charles*, proportionable to the Loss and Damage the Parties shall receive thereby.

XXXVIII. **And** to the End that the Owners of the Commons and Wastes in the said Level, and other Towns, Parishes and Places into which the Works aforesaid or any of them do extend, may improve the same by making Divisions and Inclosures; Be it provided and enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for any Person or Persons, Body Politick or Corporate whatsoever, their Heirs and Successors, that are or shall be Lords of Manors, or have or shall have Right of Common in the said Wastes, to improve, set out, inclose, divide and sever such Proportion or Proportions as to them shall or may severally or respectively belong or appertain, or be adjudged and allotted out of the said Commons and Wastes within the said Level, or within any Town, Parish or Place into which the Works aforesaid or any of them do extend; and to hold such Proportion in Severalty at all Times of the Year; and all Differences that shall arise concerning the Boundaries of the Wastes, Rights of Common, Improvements, Allotments, Divisions and Inclosures, shall from Time to Time and at all Times be determined, adjudged and finally ended by the said Commissioners for the Time being, or any seven or more of them, upon their View, or Examination of Witnesses upon

Owners of
Wastes may
improve.

View or Exa-
mination of
Witnesses,

to be certified
into the Petty
Bag.

Tenures as
formerly.

Pay Rents, &c.

Sutton Mead-
lands.

Oath, which they are hereby authorized to administer, or upon both, and hearing of the Parties concerned, by their Adjudication under their Hands and Seals in Writing, which Determination and Judgment being certified into the Petty Bag, there to be filed and kept on Record, shall be final and conclusive unto all Parties: And the Allotments, Divisions and Proportions, so adjudged or decreed to be held by the said respective Persons to whom they are so set out, shall be held by him or them, and his and their Heirs, Executors and Assigns respectively, according to his or their Tenure or Tenures, Estate, Title or Interest they had in the Manors, Tenements and Lands, for which they claimed the said Proportions of Common as aforesaid; Paying such Fines and Rents, and doing such Services in Proportion for the same, as by Custom or otherways they are to pay or do, and do for the Manors, Tenements and Lands for which they claim the same Proportion, having such Respect to the yearly Values of the one and the other, as shall (if Need so require) be limited by seven or more of the Commissioners.

XXXIX. **Provided** also, and be it enacted, That it shall and may be lawful to and for such Person and Persons (as were heretofore Owners of the one hundred seventy-five Acres in *Sutton*, North and South *Meadland* in the said Isle of *Ely*, set out by the said Law of *St. Ives*, as a Recompence for draining the whole North and South *Meadlands*, containing about one thousand Acres,) their Heirs or Assigns, to sue and implead before the said Com-

Commissioners or any seven or more of them, Owners and Occupiers of the said North and South *Meadlands*, or elsewhere within the said Great Level, to draw them into Contribution for their several and respective Proportions of the said North and South *Meadlands*, towards the said one hundred seventy-five Acres: And the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall thereupon adjudge and decree unto the said Owners of the said one hundred seventy-five Acres, or such of them as they shall think fit, and to their Heirs and Assigns, such Recompence and Satisfaction, either in ready Money, yearly Rent or Land, out of the Residue of the said North and South *Meadlands*, as to the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them shall seem meet, to be held and enjoyed by the said Owners of the said one hundred seventy-five Acres, their Heirs and Assigns.

XL. **Provided** always, and be it enacted, **Londoners** That it shall and may be lawful to and for Sir **Fen.** *John Watts*, Knight, and others who derive any Interest under the Drainers of that Fen called *Londoners Fen*, his and their Heirs and Assigns, to sue and implead all and every Person and Persons, their Executors and Administrators, that have taken and received the Rents and Profits of his or their Share and Proportion of *Londoners Fen*, remaining from the Share and Proportion allotted and set out by the said Law of *St. Ives*, since the said Level was adjudged drained, and to sue for and recover the same in any of his Majesty's Courts at *Westminster*; And also that it shall and may

be lawful to and for the said Sir *John Watts* and the Participants aforesaid, his and their Heirs and Assigns, heretofore Owners of several Proportions in *Londoners Fen*, set out by *St. Ives* Law for the Adventurers Recompence for Draining the Low Grounds in *Upwell*, *Outwell*, and *Welney*, to pursue and prosecute before the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, their Claim, and for Relief against the Owners or Occupiers of the fenny and low surrounded Grounds lying in *Upwell*, *Outwell*, and *Welney* aforesaid, whose Grounds did not all contribute, or not in equal Proportion, to the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to draw them into Contribution in Equal of the said Sir *John Watts*, and the Participants aforesaid, and thereupon the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, are hereby impowered to adjudge and decree unto the said Sir *John Watts*, and the Participants aforesaid, his and their Heirs and Assigns, such Proportion out of the said Grounds, which have not equally contributed as aforesaid, as to the said Commissioners, or any seven or more, shall seem meet.

accustomed for the Avoidance of Water through the same into the River *South-Eae*, as if this Act had never been made.

XLII. **Provided** always, and be it enacted Bodies Politick by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and to demise, may be lawful to and for every Archbishop, Bishop, Dean and Chapter, and all Colleges and Halls in either University, and all Bodies Politick and Corporate, who are or shall be Lords of Manors, or have or shall have Right of Soil or Common in the Wastes within this said Level, or within such other Towns, Parishes and Places into which the Works of the Draining aforesaid do or shall extend, and who are by this Act impowered to improve, set out, inclose, divide and sever such Proportion or Proportions, as to them shall or may respectively belong or appertain out of the said Commons and Wastes within the said Level, to demise, by Indenture, all and every the said such Proportion or Proportions, as to them shall or may respectively belong or appertain out of the said Commons or Wastes within the said Level, which have not by express Words, and under any particular Rent, been at any Time formerly demised for any Term or Number of Years not exceeding one and twenty Years, so as upon every such Demise or Lease be reserved the fourth Part of the true yearly Value, to be ascertained by the Commissioners aforesaid, or any seven of them, due and payable yearly during the said Term, to him or them, and his and their Successors.

Mr. Chicheley. XLIII. **Provided** always, and be it declared by and with the Consent of all Parties concerned, That neither this Act, nor any Thing therein contained, shall extend or be construed to extend to alter the Possession of *Thomas Chicheley*, Esq; of or from six hundred seventy-one Acres, Parcel of the Lot now claimed to belong to the said Trustees of *Henry* late Earl of *Arundel* and *Surry*, and two hundred thirty-one Acres, Parcel of the Lot now claimed to belong to the said Sir *William Terringham*, or from any Part thereof, by him the said *Thomas Chicheley* now enjoyed under Purchasers by Sales, for Non-payment of Taxes upon the Dispute between the old and new Adventurers; but that the said Corporation shall execute Conveyances of the said respective Proportion unto the said *Thomas Chicheley*, his Heirs and Assigns; any Thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Rights of
Lords for
Waifes, &c.

XLIV. **Provided** always, and be it enacted, That all such Right or Rights, as any Lord or Lords of any Manor or Manors, Liberties, Hundred or Half-hundred, have heretofore had within their respective Manor or Manors, Liberties, Hundred or Half-hundred, within or without the said Level, to Waifes, Strays, Felons Goods, Privileges of Arrests, Escheats, and all other Royalties, not prejudicial to the Draining, be hereby saved to them, their Heirs, Successors and Assigns, severally and respectively; any Thing in this Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

XLV.

XLV. Provided always, That this Act, *Waldersea*; or any Thing therein contained, shall not be interpreted to infringe or any Way to weaken an Act made the fourth Year of the Reign of King *James*, intituled, *An Act for the Draining of certain Fens and Low Grounds within the Isle of Ely, subject to Hurt by surrounding, containing about six thousand Acres, compassed about with certain Banks commonly called and named the Ring of Waldersea and Coldham*; but the said Act shall stand in full Force and Virtue; any Thing in this present Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

XLVI. Provided also, That whereas Lands cut; divers Lands, in and near adjoining unto the said Great Level, have been cut through for the better conveying of the Waters from the same, and for upholding or repairing the Banks and Works there, without making Satisfaction to the respective Owners of the said Lands, for the Damage they have sustained by such Cutting, Be it further enacted, That the said Commissioners for the Time being, or any seven or more of them, upon Complaint to them made of such Damage sustained as aforesaid, without Recompence for the same, shall be and are hereby empowered to award and decree such Recompence and Satisfaction to the Party and Parties grieved, according to their respective Damages sustained by such Cutting, as to the said Commissioners for the Time being, or any seven or more of them, shall be adjudged reasonable, the said Recompence and Satisfaction to be made and given by the said Corporation within six Months next after such

such Award or Decree made ; and in Default thereof the said Commissioners, or any seven or more of them, shall and may and are hereby empowered to rate and tax the said ninety and five thousand Acres, and to distrain thereupon for the Payment of such Rate or Tax, and the Distress taken thereupon to sell or dispose as they shall think fit, (rendering the Overplus, if any be, to the Owner) for the Payment and Satisfaction of such Monies and Damages as shall be so awarded ; any Thing in this Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Barons of the
Exchequer.

XLVII. **Provided** nevertheless, That in Case the Judicature hereby established shall not, within twelve Months from the first Day of *August* next, hear and determine all the Matters by this Act to them referred concerning the said ninety-five thousand Acres, all and every such Person and Persons whose Complaints shall be then undetermined, may make their Applications to the Barons of his Majesty's Court of Exchequer, who are hereby established a Court of Judicature, and sufficiently authorized to hear and determine all such Controversies and Differences between the said Parties in as large and ample Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as the Judicature hereby established might have done, and such Judgment, Order or Decree of the said Court of Exchequer shall be in all Things observed, and be effectual as if the said Barons had been made the only Judicature by this Act.

Lessees of the
1000 Acres,
capable of
enclosures.

XLVIII. **Provided** always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Lessees of the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors.

Successors of the said ten thousand Acres, or of any Part thereof, and the Assigns of such Lessees, and every or any of them, shall be capable to be elected and chosen into the Office or Place, Offices or Places of Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators aforesaid, and to vote in such Elections and Choice, and in all other Matters, as fully to all Intents and Purposes as any other Members of the Corporation, Owners of any Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, may be elected and chosen, vote in such Election and Choice, or in any other Matter, so as such Lessees and their Assignees respectively have and be Lessees or Owners of double the Quantity or Number of Acres, Parcel of the said ten thousand Acres, as by Virtue of this Act is required to qualify any Person to be elected and chosen into the Office or Place of Governor, Bailiff or Conservator respectively, and to vote in such Elections and Choice, or in any other Matter touching the said Level, and so as such Leases or Assignments they claim by be entered with the Register; any Thing before in this Act to the Contrary notwithstanding.

XLIX. **Provided** always, and be it Mr. Offley enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That ^{may sue.} this Act shall not extend to impeach or make void any Obligation given to *David Offley*, Gentleman, conditioned for his quiet Enjoyment of a certain Parcel of Land purchased by him in the said Level, but that the said *David Offley* may sue and prosecute his several Action or Actions upon the said Obligation,

gation, as if he had been evicted or removed from his Estate therein by due Course of Law.

orporation
t to be
arged for
eaches,

L. **And** be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Breaches happen in any of the Banks, Saffes, Sluces, Tunnels, or other Works within the said Great Level, or in any the Works made without the said Great Level, for carrying the Waters of the said Great Level to their Outfall at Sea, by reason of some inevitable Accidents, the same shall be repaired and made good in convenient Time, by and at the Charges of the said Corporation and their Successors; but no other Charge shall be laid upon the said Corporation or their Successors, for or in respect of such Breaches, nor for or in respect of any Breaches that have happened heretofore in any of the said Banks, Saffes, Sluces, or other Works; nor shall the said Corporation be enforced to give to any other Person any Recompence for any Loss or Damage which hath or shall happen, by reason of their making necessary and sufficient Banks for the defending of the said Level from being overflown, and for the leading of the Waters of the said Level in their Channels as now they run unto their Outfall at Sea.

or for ma-
ing Banks.

xchanges.

LI. **Provided** nevertheless, and be it enacted, That where any Participant under *Francis Earl of Bedford*, or the Heirs or Assigns of any such Participant, hath exchanged his or their Share or Lot of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, for any other Lands, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand

thousand Acres, which were claimed and held under such pretended Sales for Non-payment of Taxes since one thousand six hundred forty and nine, It shall and may be lawful to and for such Participant and Participants, and his and their Heirs and Assigns, to enter again upon the same Lands so given in exchange, and to have and retain the same in his and their Possession; any Thing in this Act to the contrary notwithstanding: Subject nevertheless in all Things to such Judgment and Determination as the Judicature hereby constituted shall make concerning the same.

LII. **Provided** always, That no ascertain- Divisions only
ing or dividing of the said drained or new im- to subject the
proved Lands by the said Commissioners as Bounds to Ec-
aforesaid, shall conclude the King's Majesty, clesiastic Juris-
his Heirs, Successors, or Assigns, or any other diction.
Person or Persons, as to the Bounds of Parishes,
to any other Intent or Purpose than subjecting
the same to Taxes and Contributions, and
Episcopal Jurisdictions, and not as to the
Right of Tithes or any other Purpose what-
soever, nor shall be, or be used in Evidence
concerning the same.

LIII. **Provided** also, and be it further Disturbers of
enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if Inclosures for-
any Person or Persons having Right of Com- feit 20 l. &c.
mon in any of the Manors, Wastes, Com-
mons or Lands within the said Great Level of
the Fens called *Bedford* Level, or any other
Person or Persons whatsoever, at any Time
after such Division or Inclosure made or set out
as aforesaid, shall break, throw down, disturb,
obstruct, or by any Means hinder or lay open
the

the said Improvements and Inclosures, at, or after the making thereof, or the Hedges, Ditches or Fences of the same, or any Part thereof shall destroy, and shall be thereof convicted by two credible Witnesses upon Oath before two Justices of the Peace of the County where such Disturbance or Destruction shall be made, every such Person or Persons so convicted as aforesaid, shall forfeit for every such Offence the Sum of twenty Pounds, to be levied by Distress upon the Goods and Chattels of every such Offender or Offenders, by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of the said Justices of the Peace before whom such Conviction shall be made, the one Moiety to the Informer, and the other Moiety to such Person or Persons against whom the said Offence is or shall be committed; or for Want of such sufficient Distress, the Offender shall be committed to the House of Correction, or Common Gaol, for three Months, without Bail or Mainprize, at the said Justices Discretion.

After August
1768, not to
be taxed above
1s. per Acre

LIV. ~~Provided~~ always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after the first Day of Au-

eighty-three thousand Acres hereby vested in the said Corporation, shall not amount unto so much in Proportion as two Shillings an Acre, according to the Proportion for each Acre ; Then a proportionable Abatement shall be made out of the said two Shillings *per* Acre, which shall be charged yearly by an equal Rate ^{Rated *per* Acre.} upon every Acre of the said ten thousand Acres, and the said two thousand Acres according to the Rate imposed upon every Acre of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, whether the same shall be assessed by an Acre-tax or a Pound-rate, or by any other Way ; any Thing herein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

LV. **And** it is further declared, that the ^{Not to con-} assessing, laying, and levying of Taxes up- ^{clude on the} on the said ten thousand Acres, or upon the ^{Tax.} said two thousand Acres, or any Part thereof, after the said first Day of *August* which shall be in the said Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty and eight, by the Way of an Acre-tax, shall not extend nor be interpreted or construed to extend to compel or conclude the said Corporation to assess, lay or levy any Tax or Taxes upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres hereby vested in the said Corporation, or upon any Part thereof, by the Way of an Acre-tax.

Anno Regni
C A R O L I II.

R E G I S

Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,

V I C E S I M O.

At the Parliament begun at *Westminster* the eighth Day of *May Anno Domini 1661*, in the thirteenth Year of the Reign of our most Gracious Sovereign Lord *CHARLES*, by the Grace of God, of *England, Scotland, France* and *Ireland* King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And there continued by several Prorogations to the tenth Day of *October 1667*: From whence it is continued by Adjournment made the ninth Day of *May 1668* to the eleventh Day of *August* next following.

Anno XX.

CAROLI II. Regis.

An Act for the Taxing and Assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens.

W H E R E A S by an Act made Recital of
in this present Parliament, en- 15 Car. 2.
titled, *An Act for settling the*
Draining the Great Level of
the Fens called Bedford Level, It is amongst
other Things enacted, That the Governor,
Bailiffs and Conservators of the Corporation
in the said Act mentioned, and by Virtue of
the same from Time to Time to be elected
and appointed, for the Time being, or any
five or more of them, (whereof the Governor Powers given
and Bailiffs for the Time being, or any of them, by 15 Car. 2.
to be two) should and might from thenceforth to lay Taxes.
use the Power and Authority of Commission-
ners of Sewers within the said Great Level,

Y 2

and

Said Powers
executed.

Wherein Cor-
poration have
proceeded by
an Acre-tax,
to the Damage
of Adventurers
as the Lands
differ in Va-
lue.

For remedy-
ing which
Corporation
have taxed by
a gradual
Acre tax of
five Sorts, on
83000 Acres,
and by a Me-
dium on
12000 Acres.

and from Time to Time *lay and impose Taxes* upon the ninety-five thousand Acres within the said Level in the said Act mentioned, for the Maintenance and Preservation of the same, as by the said Act appeareth: And whereas since the making of the said Act, the Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation, in Execution of the Power and Authority thereby to them given, have laid and imposed Taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, for the Purposes by the said Act specified and appointed, wherein they have proceeded by Way of an Acre-tax, at a certain Rate by the Acre, and have enforced the Payment of the same after that Manner, to the great Damage of divers of the Adventurers and Participants, for that the said ninety-five thousand Acres are not only much different in the natural Richness and Barrenness of their Soil, but likewise some Parts of the said Lands are, by frequent Inundations and otherwise, exceedingly peyorated and made worse, and the Corn, Hay, Seed or Grass thereupon often destroyed; yet the same Lands are equally taxed with the best and most secure Lands in the said Level as aforesaid; the which said Way of raising Draining-taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, by an equal Acre-rate, hath been found to be inconvenient; And for removing the said Inconvenience, the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators have of late proceeded to a more indifferent Way of taxing of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, (that is to say) by a gradual Acre-tax of five Sorts, upon eighty-three thousand Acres, Part of the said

faid ninety-five thousand Acres, and by a Medium of the twelve thousand Acres, Residue of the faid ninety-five thousand Acres: And to the Intent that Encouragement may be given for the better improving of the faid ninety-five thousand Acres, and that a constant and certain Way of taxing may be continued and established for the future;

Be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Assent of the Lords Spiritual and temporal and Commons in this Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That all Taxes hereafter to be set and imposed for the Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level, are hereby appointed and declared to be from Time to Time assessed and taxed by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or their Successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor and Bailiffs for the Time being or any of them to be two, upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres, Part and Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, by a gradual Acre-tax of different Sorts and Values of Lands; the which said gradual Acre-tax set as aforesaid, and all future gradual Acre-taxes to be set, shall be received, paid and levied, with like Penalties in the said recited Act provided for Non-payment of Taxes, by such and the like Ways and Means as by the said recited Act are provided for to be paid and levied; and the said eighty-three thousand Acres for raising of Taxes for Support and Maintenance of the Great Level, are not to be rated or assessed otherwise, or in any other

Enacted that for the future all Taxes laid on the 83000 Acres, Part of the 95000 Acres, for Maintenance of Great Level be according to a gradual Acre-tax of different Sorts and Degrees, and according to the respective Values.

Manner than according to a gradual Acre-tax of different Sorts and Degrees, and according to the respective Values and Rates thereby set and rated, and to be set and rated as is hereafter appointed upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres; any Law, Statute or other Thing to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

12000 Acres
Residue of
95000 Acres,
when the
whole 95000
are taxed for
6110*l.* 7*s.* 1*d.*
Peny Halfpeny, to
be taxed at
1*s.* 3*d.* *per*
Acre, and so
in Proportion.

And whereas the said twelve thousand Acres, Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, are by the said gradual Acre taxed towards the raising of the Sum of six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds seven Shillings one Penny Halfpeny, are rated and taxed at one Shilling three Pence *per* Acre, being a Medium as if the whole ninety-five thousand Acres had been rated, taxed and assessed at fifteen Pence *per* Acre; Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That when and so often as a Tax of the said Sum of six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds seven Shillings one Penny Halfpeny, shall be taxed and assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, That then the said twelve thousand Acres shall be rated, taxed, and assessed by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, and their Successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor and Bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, at fifteen Pence the Acre, and according to the Proportion for the raising of any greater or lesser Sum than six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds seven Shillings one Penny Halfpeny, to be received, paid and levied, together with Penalties, in such and the like Manner as the Taxes set and imposed—

or to be set and imposed upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres, are by this Act provided for to be received, paid and levied. And be it further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That no Taxes to be set by Virtue of this Act, shall be set or imposed upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or their Successors, or any five or more of them, but upon *Wednesday, Thursday and Friday* next after the first *Sunday in April*, or some or one of them three Days yearly for ever, and not at any other Time; any Law, Custom, or Usage to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

And whereas by the said recited Act, it is amongst other Things provided, That Sales for Non-payment of Taxes shall be made at *Ely* upon *Wednesday* and *Thursday* in *Whitsun Week* yearly, the which Season is found to be inconvenient: For Remedy whereof, Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That from and after *Whitsun Week*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred sixty-eight, those Days for Sales shall be altered and changed unto the said *Wednesday, Thursday and Friday* after the said first *Sunday in April* in every Year, and all other Matters and Things concerning or relating to Sales for Non-payment of Taxes, by the said recited Act provided, are to stand in Force and to be observed with this; That the Serjeant at Mace of the said Great Level shall from Time to Time, by Precept under the Seal of the Corporation of the said Great Level, Serjeant at Mace, by Precept under Corporation Seal, to deliver Possession of Lands sold for Non-payment of Taxes.

Corporation
to affix the
Seal to such
Precepts.

That 83000
Acres may be
more equally
taxed, Com-
missioners
appointed to
survey and
value the
same, and di-
gest the same
not under the
Number of
seven Sorts
and Degrees.
To tax the
same in Sche-
dules to be re-
turned unto
the Fen Office.
This to be
done on Oath.

Level, in Nature of a Writ of *Habere fac^s possessionem*, at Common Law, deliver Possession unto such Person or Persons as shall purchase any Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres for Non-payment of Taxes; And the said Governor, Bailiffs, and Conservators are hereby required and authorized to affix the Seal of the said Corporation, from Time to Time, to the Precept or Precepts, at the Charge of the Parties requiring the same; any Law, Statute, Usage or Custom to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And to the End that the said eighty-three thousand Acres may be more equally taxed by a gradual Acre-tax, not under the Number of seven Sorts; Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That *Edward Paribericbe*, Esq; *Samuel Fortrey*, Esq; *Richard Mariot*, Esq; *John Mingay*, *Jonas Moore*, *Peter Diamond*, Esquires, *Anthony Hammond*, Esq; *Mark le Pla*, Gent. and *John Bridgeman jun.* Gent. or any three or more of them, are hereby constituted and appointed to be Surveyors and Valuers of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, and are, within twelve Months next after the passing of this Act, to digest the said eighty-three thousand Acres into such Number of Sorts or Degrees of Land not under the Number of seven Sorts and Degrees; and to rate and tax such Degrees, and digest the same into Schedules in Writing, and make Returns thereof upon their Oaths into the Fen Office; the Form of which said Oath shall be, (*viz.*)

I A. B. do swear, That according to the best of Form of Oath
my Skill and Knowledge, I will faithfully dis- to be adminis-
charge the Trust of Surveying, Sorting, Dividing tered to Com-
and Rating of eighty-three thousand Acres, Par- missioners.,
cel of ninety-five thousand Acres within the
Great Level of the Fens, known by the Name of
Bedford Level, according to seven Degrees or
more, as I upon my Oath shall think most equal.

The which said Oath the said Governor, Corporation
 Bailiffs and Conservators, or any three or more to administer
 of them, are hereby authorized to administer, Oath, to pay
 and also to allow unto the said Surveyors, or Surveyors and
 Valuers, such reasonable Charges for their Tra- Valuers for
 vel and Pains therein as they shall think fit; their Trouble.
 And after the same are returned into the said Returns made
 Fen Office, and there publickly set up, which into the Fen
 said Return is hereby enacted to be made Office to be
 within one Month after the Survey taken, and publickly
 the several Valuations by the Parties to that set up.
 Purpose by this Act appointed and agreed up-
 on, and all Parties agrieved may take their Parties agriev-
 Exceptions within thirty Days next after the ed may take
 same are set up; And within forty Days next Exceptions.
 after such Exceptions taken, may appeal for and appeal to
 Relief unto the said Governor, Bailiffs and the Corpora-
 Conservators, or any five or more of them, for tion.
 altering the said Schedules in the Rates and
 Values complained of, so as the Parties appeal-
 ing shall prosecute the said Appeal within the
 said forty Days, and not at any Time after :
 And in Case the said Governor, Bailiffs and Con-
 servators shall not, within the said forty Days
 relieve

If Parties are dissatisfied with the Judgment of the Corporation, relieve the said Parties grieved, or if the said Parties shall not be satisfied with the Determination of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, that then the said Parties may appeal unto Sir *Henry North*, Baronet, Sir *Levinus Bennet*, Baronet, Sir *Robert Brook of Tuxford*, Knight, Sir *Edmond Pooley*, Knight, *Henry Williams*, *Robert Apreece*, *Richard Naylor*, *Humphry Orme*, *Morris Tresham*, *Laurence Oxborough*, *Henry Farrer junior*, *Edward Barber*, *Matthew Wren*, *Thomas Marsh*, *Henry Fitch*, Doctor of Laws, *Thomas Steward*, *Anthony Fisher*, *Matthias Tayler*, *John Towers*, Esquires, and *Burrage Martin*, Gent. or any three or more of them, who are hereby constituted and appointed Commissioners of Appeal to hear and determine such Complaints, and to give Relief therein as they shall see Cause, and to award Costs to either Parties as they shall see Cause, the which said Costs may be recovered by Action of Debt in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, wherein no Essoign or Wager of Law shall be allowed; which said Appeals to the Commissioners shall be duly prosecuted by the said Parties grieved within two Months next after the Expiration of the forty Days, and not at any Time after; the which said Schedules with the Alterations, if any shall be made by the said Corporation wherewith the Parties shall rest satisfied, or by the Determination of the said Commissioners of Appeal, are hereby confirmed, and shall hereby confirmed and made a Rule for taxing 83000 Acres.

be a constant Rule and Foundation for the rating and taxing of the said eighty-three thousand Acres for the future, for Maintenance and Preservation of the Works made and to be made within or without the said Great Level of the said Fens; And that the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, nor their Successors, nor any of them, shall tax or assess the said eighty-three thousand Acres, otherwise than by and according to the said Schedules to be returned or confirmed as aforesaid; And it is declared that the said twelve thousand Acres, Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, shall be rated and taxed by a Medium towards all Taxes hereafter to be laid, as by the said Tax made the said twentieth Day of *June* is provided, and not otherwise.

Corporation not to tax otherwise than according to Schedules.

12000 Acres, Residue of 95000 Acres, to be taxed by a Medium.

And it is hereby further enacted, That a Tax of the said Sum of six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds seven Shillings one Penny Halfpenny, shall and may be set by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them, in *Whitsun* Week next, upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres, according to the said gradual Acre-tax of five Degrees, upon the said twelve thousand Acres, at fifteen Pence *per* Acre; and for Non-payment shall and may be levied by Sales on *Wednesday*, *Thursday* or *Friday* after the said first *Sunday* in *April* then next following; And that from thenceforth all future Taxes shall be laid and imposed upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres by a gradual Acre-tax not under seven Degrees, and twelve thousand Acres in such Manner and Form as by this

Tax of 6110 *l.* 7 *s.* 1 *d.* Halfpenny to be set in *Whitsun* Week next on 83000 Acres, according to five Degrees, on 12000 Acres, at 1 *s.* 3 *d.* *per* Acre.

Sale to be on *Wednesday*, *Thursday*, *Friday* after first *Sunday* in *April*;

ever after according to this Act.

Act

Sir Miles Sandys the Elder, as Sir Miles Sandys the Elder, and Sir Miles Sandys the Younger, were Adventurers and Participants with Francis late Earl of Bedford in the said Level, and had an Interest in several Shares, Lots and Proportions in the said Great Level; the Right, Title and Interest in great Part of which said Shares and Lots were, as appears by Indenture bearing Date the twelfth Day of June in the first Year of his now Majesty's Reign, made between Sir Miles Sandys the Younger of the one Part, and Thomas Sandys, Esq; and Robert Sandys, Clerk, Humberstone Marsh, Esq; Samuel Spalding, Gent. William Wolfson, Clerk, and John Kirk of the second Part, and Samuel Sandys of Ombersley, Esq; on the third Part, settled in several Trustees therein named, in Trust for the Payment of all such Taxes as should be due for or in respect of the said Lands mentioned in the said Indenture, and after in Trust for the securing of the said Samuel Sandys, Esq; from all such Debts as he the said Samuel Sandys stood engaged for, the proper Debts of the said Sir Miles Sandys the Elder, and Sir Miles Sandys the Younger: Since which said Indenture so had and made, the said Samuel Sandys the Elder has paid great Sums of Money for and towards the Satisfaction of the said Debts of Sir Miles Sandys the Elder and Sir Miles Sandys the Younger, and yet hath reaped no Benefit by Virtue of the said Deed or Trust so as aforesaid made for his Security, although by an Act made by this present Parliament, intituled, *An Act for settling the Draining of the Great*

Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level, the said *Samuel Sandys* ought to have had a Conveyance of the Shares and Lots mentioned in the said Indenture: But in regard the said *Samuel Sandys*, Esq; nor any in Trust for him, could procure any Conveyance, which hath proved very prejudicial to the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder; but he hath not been able to get any Conveyance thereof.

Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by Authority of the same, That all the said Lots and Shares in the said Indenture mentioned (except only such Lands of the said half Share as were really sold by Sir *Miles Sandys* the Elder or Sir *Miles Sandys* the Younger, for full and valuable considerations, and such of the said two Shares which have been sold for the Payment of Taxes or Debts in Pursuance of the said Indenture, by the said Sir *Miles Sandys* and the Trustees Parties to the said Indenture) are hereby vested and settled in *Samuel Sandys* the Younger, Esq; and *Edwin Sandys*, Gent. Sons of the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, their Heirs and Assigns, freed and discharged from all Manner of Taxes whatsoever to the Time of the passing this Act: And by the Authority aforesaid, the Freehold and Inheritance of the said Lots and Shares aforesaid, except before excepted, shall be deemed and adjudged to be in the said *Samuel Sandys* the Younger and *Edwin Sandys*, their Heirs and Successors for ever; Nevertheless the said Shares and Lots, hereby vested, shall be liable to the Payment All the said Shares except as hereby excepted, hereby vested in the Sons of said Samuel Sandys discharged of Taxes; subject to Payment of Debts according to Of the original Trust,

of the Debts aforesaid, and to all Powers and Jurisdictions, together with the Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as the same are subject and liable by the said recited and to future Taxes. Act for the future, and of all such Taxes and Penalties as shall be hereafter assessed or laid for the Preservation of the said Great Level, in such Sort and Manner as the eighty-three thousand Acres, Parcel of the ninety-five thousand Acres, shall be assessed and taxed; any Law, Statute or Thing to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Provided also, and it is hereby further declared and enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Sale or Sales made, agreed or contracted for, for Non-payment of Taxes of any of the Lands of the said Sir *Miles Sandys* the Elder or Sir *Miles Sandys* the Younger, or the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, Esq; by the Governors, Bailiffs and Conservators, constituted and elected by Authority of an Act of this present Parliament, intituled, *An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level*, to any Person or Persons whatsoever by Virtue or Colour of the said Act, is, are and shall be null and void; and that the said Lands sold by the said Governors, Bailiffs and Conservators, (except before excepted) are and shall be vested in and settled by this present Act in the said *Samuel Sandys* the Younger, and *Edwin Sandys*, their Heirs and Assigns, freed and discharged of and from all Taxes laid by the said Governors,

Sales for Non-payment of Taxes of said Shares under 15 Car. 2. null and void.

nors, Bailiffs and Conservators; any Thing in the said recited Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

AND to the End the said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys* may have the Effect and Benefit hereby intended them; and that the Occupiers and Possessors of the said Shares and Lots, vested in them the said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys* as aforesaid, may not, by their continuing in Possession and Neglect of paying the Taxes hereafter to be imposed on the said Shares and Lots or any Part of them, cause the same to be forfeited and sold for Non-payment of the respective Taxes that shall become due for the same; Be it therefore hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That in Case any Occupier or Possessor of any the said Shares or Lots in the said Deed of Trust mentioned as aforesaid, or of any Part of them, pretending to claim under the said Deed of Trust or otherwise, that shall refuse to deliver or yield up the Possession of such Part of the said Shares or Lots to them the said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys*, or their Assignees, and shall not duly pay the Taxes hereafter to be imposed on the same before our *Ladyday* one thousand six hundred seventy-one, That then the Serjeant at Mace for the Time being, attending the said Corporation, is hereby authorized and empowered by Precept under the Seal of the Corporation of the said Great Level (who are hereby required to grant and issue out the same) in the Nature of a Writ of *Habere facias possessionem* at the Common Law, to deliver unto, and put them the said

The Sons of the said Samuel Sandys to be put into Possession thereof by a Precept under the Corporation Seal.

said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys*, their Heirs or Assigns, in the quiet and peaceable Possession of such Shares and Lots, or any Part of them; and all and every such Occupier or Occupiers, Possessor or Possessors thereof, off and from the same to eject, expel and amove; they the said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys*, upon reasonable Notice, first paying or tendring such Taxes as shall become due for the same from the Time of the passing this Act, one Month before the next Day of Sale for Non-payment of such Taxes hereafter to be imposed; which said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys*, and their Heirs, are thereupon hereby actually vested in the same.

All Arrears of Rent since 15 Car. 2. on the said Shares to be paid to the Sons of Samuel Sandys. **And** whereas the said several Shares and Lots of the said ninety-five thousand Acres; herein before vested and settled in the said *Samuel Sandys* the Younger, and *Edwin Sandys*, and their Heirs as aforesaid, ought to have been conveyed unto the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, or his Trustees, by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation, by Virtue of the said beforementioned Act, as in and by the same they were required and directed, which they refuse to do, whereby the Rents, Issues and Profits thereof have not been paid to nor could be received by the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, or his Trustees, or by any other, by, to or for his or their Use; Be it therefore hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said *Samuel Sandys*, and *Edwin Sandys*, shall and are hereby intituled to the said Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Shares and Lots since the passing of

of the said recited Act, which have not really been paid to the said Corporation for Taxes, or to the said *Samuel Sandys* the Elder, and the Occupiers and Possessors thereof are hereby appointed to pay the same accordingly; and in Default of Payment thereof, or of any Part thereof, they the said *Samuel Sandys* and *Edwin Sandys* are hereby authorized and impowered to sue for, and by Virtue of his Act shall recover the same, wherein no Essoin, Protection or Wager of Law shall be allowed, and shall likewise have their Costs of Suit expended therein; any Thing herein to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That after the said *Edwin* and *Samuel Sandys* shall have recovered and received Satisfaction for the mean Profits, or any Part of them; That then they, their Heirs and Assigns, shall pay so much of the said Arrears of the said gradual Acre-tax, imposed upon the said respective Lands, proportionably to what they shall receive and no more.

Provided always, and be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That whereas several Parcels of the said ninety-five thousand Acres ought to have been conveyed to *Thomas Lord Culpepper* or his Trustees, by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation, by Virtue of the said before recited Act, as in and by the same they were required and directed, which they delayed to do, whereby the Rents, Issues and Profits thereof have not been paid to nor could be received by the said *Thomas Lord Culpepper* or

who may sue for the same.

The Sons of said Samuel Sandys to pay Arrears of Taxes in Proportion to Rents receiv'd.

Parts of the 95000 Acres not conveyed to Lord Culpepper or his Trustees, to be conveyed; and he and his Trustees to recover Rents Arrear.

his Trustees, that the said *Thomas Culpepper*, and his Trustees, shall and are intituled to the said Rents, Issues and Profits of the said Parcels, since the passing of the said recited Act, which have not been paid to the Corporation for Taxes, or for or them; and the Occupiers and Possessors thereof are hereby required to pay the same accordingly; and in Default of Payment thereof or any Part thereof, he the said *Thomas Lord Culpepper*, and his Trustees, are hereby authorized and impowered to recover the same, and by Virtue of this Act shall recover the same, wherein no Effoin, Protection or Delay of Law shall be allowed, and shall have their Costs of Suit expended herein, without Thing to the contrary hereof in any way withstanding.

THE
S U R V E Y
FOR THE

Eighty-three Thousand A C R E S,

Parcel of ninety-five thousand Acres within the Great Level of the Fens called *Bedford Level*, returned into the Fen Office sorted into eleven several Degrees by *Edward Partbericke, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott, John Mingay* and *Anthony Hammond*, Esquires, *Mark Le Pla* and *John Bridgeman*, Gentlemen, Persons constituted and appointed by an Act of this present Parliament, intituled, *An Act for the taxing and assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens, for surveying, sorting, dividing and rating the same.*

Set up in the Office the tenth of *October* 1668,
by Order of the ninth of *September* last.



The FIRST LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 H Addenham Common, A.	100	0	0	5
2 Botsham High Fen, { Mr. Blake,	70	0	0	6
one hundred forty Acres, { Dr. Denton,	70	0	0	7
3 Sutton Meadlands next to Middlemoor,	131	0	0	6
4 Westmoor North of Bedford River, A.	400	0	0	3
5 Coveney Severals, A.	73	0	0	3
6 Helgay Common by Capt. Skipwith's Bank,	318	0	0	5
7 Townmoor, Arkenstall, Unley Severals, Eastmoor, Little Shell and Thompson's Fen in Lackingheath, and two Sedge Fens, and Coplowe Fen in Mildenhall, A.	200	0	0	2
8 Whelpmoor, Lowellmoor and Spains Delph, A.	478	0	0	4
9 Stuntney Common,	32	0	0	4
10 Stuntney Farm,	22	0	0	4
11 Stuntney Small Severals,	12	0	0	4
12 Part of Thorney,	100	0	0	3
13 One Several in Woodwalton,	15	0	0	4
14 Grunty Fen, A.	100	0	0	4
15 Bezeling in Doddington,	344	0	0	3
16 Creek Fen in Doddington, A. next to-wards March,	200	0	0	3
17 Stoney Fen and Block Common, A.	500	0	0	4
18 Sommerham Common, A. next Croylode,	300	0	0	5
19 Great Bradney Moor, A. Several in Doddington,	162	2	0	4

Z 3

Carr. over 3627 2 0

	A. R. P.
Brought over,	3627 2 0
20 Several in Doddington,	32 2 0
21 Hale Fen Common and Sedge Fen, A. } Several by Welney next to Welney, A. }	200 0 0
22 Several of Well and Welney,	40 0 0
23 Westmoor North, D. the fourth Piece } from Welney,	50 0 0
24 Westmoor South, P. the sixth Piece } from Welney,	50 0 0
	<hr/> 4000 0 0
	450 0 0
	1167 0 0
	1354 0 0
	758 0 0
	201 0 0
	70 0 0

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,
John Bridgman.

The SECOND LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 H addenham Common,	B.	100	0	5
2 Sutton in North Fen,		272	0	5
3 Westmore North,	B.	400	0	3
4 Covecney Severals,	B.	73	0	3
5 Methwold Common and Feltwell North Fen,	A. }	400	0	1
6 Townmoor in Lakeingheath, &c.	B.	200	0	1
7 Whelpemoor, &c.	B.	461	0	4
8 Ladus Fen next unto Creek Fen,		115	0	4
9 Borsham, Qui and Ditton Intercommon, A. next Borsham Lode,	}	100	0	1
10 Langwood Fen in Chartreffe,	A.	300	0	4
11 Creek Fen in Doddington,	B.	260	0	3
12 Stoney and Blockfen Common,	B.	400	0	4
13 Sommersham Common,	B.	300	0	4
14 Severals in March,		68	0	4
15 Upwood Fen lying next towards Ramsey,		451	0	2
16 Westmoor, M. the twelfth Piece from Welney,	}	50	0	3
17 Westmoor South, A. the twentieth Piece from Welney,	}	50	0	2
		4000	0	0
		700	0	1
		501	0	2
		783	0	3
		1644	0	4
		372	0	5

The THIRD LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.	
1 Sleham Common	125	0	0	2	
Nearest the River,	125	0	0	3	
2 Middleditch Fen in Wivelingham,	77	1	0	11	
3 Great Shelford in Wivelingham,	12	3	0	11	
4 Sutton the Remainder of North Fen and the Middle next towards Chartresse Fens, and Six Acres twenty-six Pearches in West Fen adjoining,	32	0	0	4	
5 Westmoor North,	C.	200	0	0	3
6 Westmoor South,	A.	200	0	0	2
7 Ramsey Severals,	A.	73	0	0	5
8 Methwold Common, &c.	B.	400	0	0	1
9 Townmoor, &c.	C.	200	0	0	1
10 Brandon Commons,	350	0	0	3	
11 North Clouds, A. Common of Lakingheath,	58	2	0	4	
12 Severals of Lakingheath,	A.	52	2	0	3
13 Ladus Fen,	B.	115	0	0	4
14 Grunty Fen,	B.	100	0	0	4
15 Langwood Fen,	B.	300	0	0	4
16 Whitemoor in Doddington, A. the Par- cel of three hundred Acres diked out,	300	0	0	4	
17 Stoney and Blockfen Common,	C.	400	0	0	4
18 Eufimoor, Well, Pingle and Farmers Fen	A.	500	0	0	3
19 Conington Severals, A. in the greater Fen,	200	0	0	4	
20 Well and Welney Severals,	79	0	0	5	
21 Westmoor North, N. the thirteenth Piece from Welney,	50	0	0	3	
22 Westmoor South, S. the third Piece from Welney,	50	0	0	2	
<hr/>					
Acres	4000	0	0		
A.					

[345]

A. R. P. S.

600 0 0 1

375 0 0 2

1277 2 0 3

1505 2 0 4

152 0 0 5

**Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,
John Bridgman.**

The

The FOURTH LOT.

	A. R. P.
1 H addenham Common,	C. 100 0 0
2 Barway Middle and Fordey in } Soham,	231 0 0
3 Honey Fen in Chartresse,	40 0 0
4 Westmoor South,	B. 400 0 0
5 Ramsey Severals,	B. 74 0 0
6 Methwold Common, &c.	C. 400 0 0
7 Townmoor, &c.	D. 200 0 0
8 Whelpmoor, &c.	C. 461 0 0
9 Sir Miles Sandys imbanked Grounds,	B. 115 0 0
0 Grunty Fen,	C. 126 0 0
1 Wendey Fen in Chartres,	300 0 0
2 Whitemoor in Doddington, B. next to } the three hundred Acres diked out,	400 0 0
3 Eufimoor, &c.	C. 548 0 0
4 Somersham,	C. 300 0 0
5 Feltwell Severals,	D. 80 0 0
6 Caldecott Severals,	56 0 0
7 Mr. Tyrrell's Ground by Priest Houses, } twenty-four Acres and three Acres,	27 0 0
8 Severals of Doddington,	42 0 0

The FIFTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 H Addenham Common,	D.	78	0	0 5
2 Streatham Common,		172	2	0 5
3 Sutton South of Bedford River, next to the Pens of Haddenham and Went- worth,	}			
4 Westmoor South,	C.	400	0	0 2
5 Berry Mow Fen,		45	0	0 5
6 Ramsey Severals,	D.	8	0	0 7
7 Wicham Common ten Acres, and Seve- rals A. four Acres, in all	}			
8 Chartreffe Severals,		5	0	0 5
9 Dereham Commons,		200	0	0 3
10 Lakeingheath Townmoor, &c.	E.	200	0	0 3
11 Whelpmoor, &c.	D.	661	0	0 5
12 Knights Fen in Hockwold and Redmore Grounds,	}			
13 Throckenholt by Clowescrofs A. next Clowescrofs,	}			
14 Grunty Fen,	D.	100	0	0 4
15 Northwold Common A. next to Stoake Bridge,	}			
16 Westfen and Westfen Close,		483	0	0 3
17 Whitemoor C. next unto Wisbich Fen,		300	0	0 5
18 Somersham Common	D.	300	0	0 4
19 Middlemoor in Ramsey,	A.	400	0	0 4
20 Conington Severals,	B.	81	0	0 3
21 Severals of Well and Welney,		16	0	0 5
22 Westmoor North G. the seventh Piece from Welney,	}			

Carried over 3950 0 0

Brought over,
23 Westmoor South R. the fourth Piece
from Welney,

A. R. P. S.

3950 0 0

50 0 0 2

4000 0 0

561 0 0 2

1214 0 0 3

800 0 0 4

1412 0 0 5

5 0 0 6

8 0 0 7

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,
John Bridgman.

The Sixth Lot.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 Sleham Common,	B.	125	00	2
2 Neareast the River,		125	00	3
2 Clattocks or Langridge in Wivelingham,		53	00	11
3 Babishume in Wivelingham,		13	30	11
4 Upware Farm in Wicken		5	00	11
5 Lammas Grounds in Wicken near Up- ware Farm,		23	10	5
6 Sutton Meadlands next unto the Grounds mentioned in the first Lot,		25	00	6
7 Westmoor South,	D.	400	00	2
8 Mepall Severals,	A.	73	00	4
9 Methwold, &c.	D.	400	00	1
10 Townmoor, &c.	F.	200	00	2
11 Whelpmoor, &c.	E.	461	00	2
12 Ladus Fen,	C.	115	00	4
13 Wereham, Wretton and Stoake Com- mon next towards Stoake,		336	00	2
14 Curffe and Gore in Chartresse A. next Chartresse,		200	00	4
15 Dikeamoor next Westwater,		156	00	3
16 Horsemoor in Doddington A. exchanged for the like Quantity in Bezeling Fen by the Commissioners, lying next Rough Westmoor in Chartresse,		200	00	3
17 Eufimoor, &c.	B.	500	00	3
18 Hale Fen and Sedge Fen by Welney,	B.	200	00	2
19 Severals of Well and Welney,	B.	289	00	5
20 Westmoor North C. the third Piece from Welney,		50	00	3

Carried over 3956 00

[350]

		A. R. E.
Brought over,		3950 0 0
21 Westmoor South H. the thirteenth }		
Piece from Welney,	}	50 0 0
		<hr/>
		4000 0 0
		<hr/>
		400 0 0
		1772 0 0
		1031 0 0
		388 0 0
		312 1 0
		25 0 0
		71 3 0

The SEVENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 Sleham Common, Nearest the River,	G.	116	0	0 2
2 Wilberton Commons and Severals,		115	0	0 3
3 Rampton Commons,		124	0	0 9
4 Westmore South,	E.	16	0	0 8
5 Mepall Severals,	B.	400	0	0 2
6 Methwold, &c.	B.	75	0	0 4
7 Townmoor, &c.	E.	400	0	0 1
8 Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen,	G.	200	0	0 2
9 Mildenhall, Burnt Fen, Ely Shell and Shippey A. 300 Acres,	A.	161	0	0 2
Next Shippey,		150	0	0 3
10 Sir Miles Sandys imbanked Ground, next Crouchmoor,	C.	150	0	0 4
11 Sir Henry Willoughby's Severals in Southery, West of the River Ouse,		145	0	0 3
12 Curffe and Gore in Chartresse B. next Doddington,		76	0	0 4
13 Dikeamoore in Doddington,	B.	200	0	0 4
14 Horsemoor B. 200 Acres, whereof ex- changed 82 Acres for 82 Acres in Bezeling by the Commissioners,	A.	200	0	0 3
15 Hale Fen and Sedge Fen by Welney, C. next unto the remaining Part of Sedge Fen,		195	0	0 2
16 Eufimoore, &c.	D.	500	0	0 3
17 Middlemoor in Ramsey,	B.	400	0	0 3
18 Sir Oliver Cromwell's Severals in Ram- sey,	A.	108	0	0 4

Carried over 3900 0 0

	A. R. F. S. _____
Brought over,	3900 0 0
19 Westmoor North, K. the tenth Piece?	} 50 0 0 3
from Welney,	
20 Westmoor South, O. the seventh Piece?	} 50 0 0 <u>2</u>
from Welney,	
	<hr/> 4000 0 0 <hr/>
	400 0 0 2
	1121 0 0 <u>2</u>
	1730 0 0 3
	609 0 0 4
	16 0 0 8
	124 0 0 9

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott____,
 John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla____,
 John Bridgman.

The

The EIGHTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 S Waffham High Fen,	A.	200	0	0
2 Haddenham Severals 138 Acres,				
Mr. Fortrey,	99	3	32	8
Mr. Read,	38	0	8	1
3 Sutton South of Bedford River,		32	0	0
4 Byall Fen,	A.	400	0	0
5 Mepall Commons,		53	0	0
6 Severals of Mepall,	C.	22	0	0
7 Helgay and Southrey Common,	A.	300	0	0
8 Lakeingheath, &c.	H.	200	0	0
9 Milldenhall, &c. B. 300 Acres,		150	0	0
Nearest the River,		150	0	0
10 Feltwell South Fen and Mow Fen,	B.	261	0	0
11 Knights Fen and Redmoor Grounds,				
B.	115	0	0	
12 Botsham, Horningsey, &c.	B.	100	0	0
13 Northwold Common by Stoake North				
of Wissey,		29	0	0
14 Langwood Fen in Chartreffe,	C.	320	0	0
15 West Fen and West Fen Close,	B.	525	0	0
16 Middlemoor,	C.	400	0	0
17 Poolings in Hockwold,		100	0	0
18 Sir John Watt's Grounds in London-				
ers Fen,		352	1	0
19 Several of Doddington,		42	3	0
20 Hen Middle in Londoners Fen,		10	0	0
21 Westmoor North, O. the fourteenth				
Piece from Welney,		50	0	0
<hr/>				
Carried over, 3950 0 0				
A &	Brough			

	A. R. P.
Brought over,	3950 0 0
23 Westmoor South T. the second Piece	50 0 0
from Welney,	
	<hr/>
	4000 0 0
	<hr/>
	523 0 0
	1193 0 0
	1443 0 0
	479 0 0
	234 0 0
	124 0 0
	4 0 0

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marrix
 John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pl
 John Bridgman.

The TENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 D Enver Fen North of Bedford River,	256	0	0	8
2 Severals of Denver by the Grounds?				
of Well,	5	4	0	9
3 Sir Henry Willoughby's Several in?				
Southery East of Ouse,	5	76	0	8
4 Lammas Grounds in Wicken next to?				
High Fen,	5	21	0	5
5 Mr. Barrow's imbanked Ground in Wicken,				
6 Stacks in Wivelingham seven Acres,				
7 Croyle in Swaffham A. next to the hard?				
Lands,	5	200	0	2
8 Burwell Common,	A.	247	0	2
9 Sir Edward Peyton's Sedge Severals in?				
Wicken,	5	14	0	2
10 Rowey in Somertham,				
11 Helgay and Southery Common,	C.	300	0	3
12 Townmoor, &c.	K.	200	0	1
13 Mildenhall &c. D. 300 Acres,				
Near the River,	5	150	0	3
14 Hockwold and Wilton Common,	B.	222	0	1
15 Littleport Severals,				
16 Mr. Gibbon's Ground called Warners, A.?				
next Redmoors,	5	115	0	3
17 Botsham, Horningsfey, &c.	C.	100	0	1
18 Northwold Common,	B.	200	0	3
19 Normoor in Chartresse A. next to Honey,				
20 Warboys, &c.	B.	500	0	3
21 Horsemoor,	D.	287	0	3
22 Sir Robert Bell's Grounds in Londoners?				
Fen,	5	136	2	5

A a 3

Carried over 3644 2 0

	A.	R.	P.	S.
Brought over,	3644	2	0	
23 Sir Lewis Trefham's Ground in Londoners Fen,	93	1	0	4 —
24 Mr. Fincham's Grounds in Londoners Fen,	11	3	0	4 —
25 The Ground in Londoners Fen late Mr. Fincham's,	13	1	0	4 —
26 Part of Sedge Fen in Welney North of Bedford River Eastward,	1	0	0	2 —
27 Part of Knobballs in Welney North of Bedford River,	9	0	0	3 —
28 Three Severals in Welney between Popham's Eau and new Dike,	65	0	0	5 —
29 Several of Dodington,	62	1	0	4 —
30 Westmoor North H. the eighth Piece from Welney,	50	0	0	3 —
31 Westmoor South next Piece to Welney,	50	0	0	2 —
	4000	0	0	0
	522	0	0	1
	662	0	0	2
	1618	0	0	3
	758	0	0	4
	86	0	0	5
	11	0	0	6
	7	0	0	7
	332	0	0	8
	4	0	0	9

The ELEVENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 Eatmoor in Upwell,	250	0	0	5
2 Middlemoor in Sutton,	37	0	0	5
3 Coxnefts and Mr. Jetherell's Hamlets in } Sutton,	6	0	0	5
4 West Fen next to Sutton Meadlands,	76	0	0	5
5 Byall Fen,	400	0	0	4
6 Mepall Severals of Mr. Carters by Furry } Fen,	18	0	0	4
7 Coveney Severals,	56	0	0	3
8 Methwold, &c.	488	0	0	2
9 Townmoor, &c.	200	0	0	1
10 Norney Farm,	79	0	0	3
11 Littleport Severals,	203	0	0	4
12 Roxam Common,	94	0	0	3
13 Sutton in Holland A. next unto Wride,	115	0	0	5
14 Pyemoor near Witchford,	152	0	0	4
15 Normoor in Chartreffe,	400	0	0	4
16 The Middle in Doddington,	200	0	0	4
17 Warboys, &c.	500	0	0	3
18 Raveley Fen in Ramsfey,	229	0	0	3
19 Sir William Cockayne's Ground in Lon- } doners Fen,	171	0	0	4
20 Part of Sedge Fen in Welney lying North } of Bedford River,	10	0	0	2
21 Feltwell Severals,	216	0	0	1
22 Westmoor North A. next Piece to Welney,	50	0	0	3
23 Westmoor South S. fourteenth Piece from } Welney,	50	0	0	2
A a 4	4000	0	0	

[360]

A. 19
416 00
548 00
1008 00
1544 00
484 00

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Martin
John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pe
John Bridgman.

The TWELFTH LOT.

A. R. P. S.

W aterbeach Joist Fen, Wicken				
Lammas Ground adjoining to				
Joist Fen, and the several Grounds of	250	0	0	4
Edwards, Peytons and Daltons,				
: Sutton Grounds South of Bedford River				
lying next to the Grounds of Sutton of	109	2	0	5
the first Lot,				
3 Part of Sutton West Fen,	B.	10	2	0
4 Croyle in Swaffham,	B.	200	0	0
5 One Several in Woodwalton,		36	0	0
6 The Remainder of Sawtree Fen from		6	2	0
the King's Part,				
7 Severals of Chartresse,	A.	230	0	0
8 Helgay and Southery Common,	D.	300	0	0
9 Townmoor, &c.	M.	200	0	0
10 Whelpmoor, &c. F. Mr. Bradborne next		40	0	0
the Drove-way,				
The other,		522	0	0
11 Ladus Fen,	E.	115	0	0
12 Downham in the Isle Common and Seve-		302	0	0
ral 390 Acres,				
Whereof exchanged 88 Acres for 88		88	0	0
Acres in Cowe Fen,				
13 Elme Common and Severals,		250	0	0
14 West Fen and West Fen Close, D. Mr.		112	0	0
Bradborne and Pemberton,				
The others,		388	0	0
15 Stoney and Block Fen Common,	D.	400	0	0
16 Somersham Common,	E.	333	0	0
17 Langbeach Several in Upwell,		7	2	0

Carried over 3900 0 0

The THIRTEENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 Eatmoor by Upwell,	B.	250	0	0 4
2 Wicken High Fen A. next } towards Wicken,		120	0	0 7
3 Hale Fen near Coveney,		180	0	0 3
4 Burwell Common,	B.	293	0	0 1
5 Sir Robert Heath's several Grounds in } Soham,		420	0	0 2
6 Lakeingheath Severals,		94	0	0 3
7 Townmoor, &c.	N.	200	0	0 1
8 South Cloud a Common of Lakeingheath,		47	0	0 3
9 Mildenhall, &c. E. 300 Acres, } Nearest the River,		150	0	0 2
		150	0	0 3
10 Sir Miles Sandys imbanked Grounds A. } next Priest Houses,		70	0	0 3
11 Mr. Hawkin's Crouchmoor next Hale Fen,		45	0	0 3
12 Wereham, Wretton and Stoake Com- } mon B. next towards Dereham,		200	0	0 2
13 Stilton Common,		160	0	0 4
14 West Fen and West Fen Close,	E.	500	0	0 3
15 Warboys, &c.	D.	500	0	0 3
16 Upwood Fen adjoining to Whittlesey Way,		405	0	0 2
17 Sir Oliver Cromwell's Severals,	B.	69	0	0 4
18 Severals of Welney,		20	2	10 5
19 Severals of March and Doddington,		26	1	30 4
20 Westmoor North C. sixteenth Piece } from Welney,		50	0	0 3
21 Westmoor South E. sixteenth Piece } from Welney.		50	0	0 2
		4000	0	0

The FIFTEENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 Swaffham High Fen,	B.	200	00	4
2 Hempshall in Wivelingham,		53	00	0
3 Sutton West Fen,	C.	117	00	5
4 Wisbich Common,	B.	313	00	4
5 Burwell Common,	C.	160	00	2
6 Great Metlam, Little Metlam and the Haffe in Soham,	A.	500	00	2
7 Townmoor, &c.	G.	200	00	1
8 Mildenhall, &c. G. 300 Acres,		150	00	2
Nearest the River,		150	00	3
9 Thorney Farm by Stuntney,		47	00	4
10 Quaney Farm,		12	00	4
11 Richard Ward's Severals in Littleport by Prat's Weare,		3	00	4
12 Severals of Welney Chapel in Littleport,		1	00	4
13 Sutton in Holland,	C.	95	00	5
14 Mr. Gibbons Ground in Southery lying by Priest Houses,		20	00	5
15 Shevens in Well next to the Town of Upwel,		100	00	4
16 White Fen in Swaffham next Botsham High Fen,		200	00	1
17 Normoor in Chartresse,	D.	410	00	4
18 Stoney Fen Severals,	B.	300	00	4
19 Warboys, &c.	F.	500	00	4
20 Methwold Severals, 357 Acres,		257	00	2
Mr. Moore,		100	00	4
21 Severals of Mr. Strange in Londoners Fen,		12	00	4
22 Westmoor North L. eleventh Piece from Welney,		50	00	3

Carried over 3950 00

The FOURTEENTH Lot.

	A.	R.	P.	S.	
ham Common	D.	100	0	0	2
Nearest the River,	}	100	0	0	3
Common,		171	0	0	11
ken Sedge Fen,		300	0	0	2
Barrow's Sedge Severals,		21	0	0	2
ham Common,		27	0	0	2
ham Severals,	B.	56	0	0	5
lode in Somerham,		70	0	0	5
ay and Southery Common,	E.	282	0	0	3
enhall, &c. F. 325 Acres,	}	162	2	0	2
ft the River,	}	162	2	0	2
lpemoor, &c.	G.	454	0	0	2
on in Holland,	B.	115	0	0	5
ningsey High Fen,		100	0	0	2
owmoor in March,		500	0	0	4
Dani's Horsemoor imbanked,		225	0	0	3
ey Fen Several,	A.	300	0	0	3
boys, &c.	E.	500	0	0	4
sey Common by Delph Dike,		108	0	0	4
well Severals,		146	0	0	1
moor North, S. the eighteenth }	}	50	0	0	3
ce from Welney,	}				
moor South, D. the seventeenth }	}	50	0	0	2
ce from Welney,	}				
		4000	0	0	
		146	0	0	1
		1214	2	0	2
		1119	2	0	3
		1108	0	0	4
		241	0	0	5
		171	0	0	11

The FIFTEENTH LOT.

2

	A. R. 2
1 Swaffham High Fen,	B. 200 0 0
2 Hempshall in Wivelingham,	53 0 0
3 Sutton West Fen,	C. 117 0 0
4 Wisbich Common,	B. 313 0 0
5 Burwell Common,	C. 160 0 0
6 Great Metlam, Little Metlam and the Haffe in Soham,	A } 500 0 0
7 Townmoor, &c.	G. 200 0 0
8 Mildenhall, &c. G. 300 Acres,	? 150 0 0
Nearest the River,	? 150 0 0
9 Thorney Farm by Stuntney,	47 0 0
10 Quaney Farm,	12 0 0
11 Richard Ward's Severals in Littleport by Prat's Weare,	? 3 0 0
12 Severals of Welney Chapel in Littleport,	1 0 0
13 Sutton in Holland,	C. 95 0 0
14 Mr. Gibbons Ground in Southery lying by Priest Houses,	? 20 0 0
15 Shevens in Well next to the Town of Upwel,	? 100 0 0
16 White Fen in Swaffham next Botsham High Fen	? 200 0 0

[367]

	A.	R.	P.	S.
ght over,	3950	0	0	
ftmoor South N. eighth Piece from	5	50	0	2
elney,				
	4000	0	0	
	400	0	0	1
	1117	0	0	2
	200	0	0	3
	1998	0	0	4
	232	0	0	5
	53	0	0	10

Partheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,
Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,
Bridgman.

The

2

Edward Partheriche, Samuel Portrey, Richard M.
¹ John Mingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark L.
¹ John Bridgman.

The EIGHTEENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	S.
1 Eatmoor,	C.	250	0	0 4
2 Wicken High Fen,		30	0	0 5
3 Langmoor and Boatgangs in Strettham,		17	2	0 6
4 Sutton Westfen,	E.	73	2	0 5
5 Wisbich Common,	C.	473	0	0 4
6 Soham Commons in Great Metlam		569	0	0 2
7 Two Severals of Soham,		9	0	0 6
8 Hockwold and Wilton Common,	D.	182	0	0 2
9 Mildenhall, &c. H 300. Acres,		2	150	0 0 2
Nearest the River,		5	150	0 0 3
10 Mr. Gibbon's Grounds, call Warners,	B.	75	0	0 3
11 Throckenholt,	B.	40	0	0 6
12 Ashwell Moor by Coveney, the South- West Part,		274	0	0 3
13 Rough Westmoor in Chartresse,	A.	300	0	0 4
14 Horlemoor,	C.	200	0	0 3
15 Warboys, &c.	I.	500	0	0 3
16 Middle Moor,	D.	300	0	0 3
17 Great Bynnamoor and Gray's Fen next towards the River of Neane,		200	0	0 2
18 Marmound, a Several in Upwell,		27	1	0 6
19 The several Grounds in Well by News Cote,		17	3	0 5
20 Severals of Doddington,		65	0	0 4
21 Westmoor North P. fifteenth Piece from Welney,		50	0	0 3
22 Westmoor South, F. fifteenth Piece from Welney,		50	0	0 2
		4000	0	0
		1151	0	0 2
		1546	0	0 3
		1088	0	0 4
		121	1	0 5
Bb 2 .		93	3	0 6

The NINETEENTH LOT.

	A.	R.	P.	£.
1 Waterbeach Fen by Garden Tree,	112	0	0	7
2 Cottenham Common,	240	0	0	9
3 Sutton in the Meadlands next towards Westfen,	18	0	0	6
4 Wisbich Common,	D. 473	0	0	4
5 Mildenhall, &c. K. 300 Acres,	150	0	0	2
Nearest the River,	150	0	0	3
6 Whelpmoor, &c.	H. 760	0	0	2
7 Mr. Tower's Crouchmoor in Littleport,	70	0	0	3
8 Part of Mr. Hawkin's Crouchmoor,	10	0	0	2
9 Throcken Holt,	C. 35	0	0	6
10 Ashwell Moor next to Downham West Fen,	152	0	0	3
11 Rough Westmoor in Chartresse, B. next to Beezling's Fen,	296	0	0	4
12 Dikeamoore,	C. 200	0	0	3
13 Warboys, &c.	K. 550	0	0	3
14 Middlemoor in Ramsey,	E. 375	0	0	4
15 Feltwell Severals,	C. 309	0	0	1
16 Westmoor North I. ninth Piece from Welney.	50	0	0	3
17 Westmoor South Q. fifth Piece from Welney,	50	0	0	2
	<hr/> 4000 0 0 <hr/>			

[373]

A.	R.	P.	S.
309	0	0	1
960	0	0	2
1182	0	0	3
1144	0	0	4
53	0	0	6
112	0	0	7
240	0	0	9

urtheriche, Samuel Fortrey, Richard Marriott,
lingay, Anthony Hammond, Mark Le Pla,
dgman.

B b 3

The

The TWENTIETH LOT.

	A. R. P.
1 T Horney Knare Fen,	3900 00
2 Westmoor North of Bedford River, B. the Second Piece from Wel-	50 00
ney,	
3 Westmoor South, L. tenth Piece from Welney,	50 00
	<hr/>
	4900 00
	<hr/>
	50 00
	3950 00

The three thousand Acres overplus.

	A. R. P.
26 W oodwalton Common,	937 00
27 Higney Grounds,	100 00
28 Part of Holme Fen,	963 00
29 Part of Bvall Fen next to Maney.	1000 00

In Pursuance of an Act of this present
 Parliament, intituled, *An Act for the Taxing
 and Assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers
 within the Great Level of the Fens*, We whose
 Names are here subscribed, thereby constituted
 and appointed (with others) Surveyors and Va-
 luers of eighty-three thousand Actes, Parcel of
 ninety-five thousand Acres within the said Le-
 vel, having first taken the Oath prescribed by
 the said Act for the faithful Discharge of the
 Trust reposed in us, for the surveying, sorting,
 dividing and rating the said eighty-three thou-
 sand Acres, do make our Return of this Sur-
 vey made by us, consisting of eleven several De-
 grees and Sorts, into the Fen Office, to be
 taxed and rated accordingly; viz. That the
 first Sort being taxed at four Pence *per* Acre;
 the second Sort to be taxed at eight Pence *per*
 Acre, and so every Degree to be gradually
 rated and taxed; wherby the eleventh Degree
 at the said Proportion will be three Shillings
 eight Pence upon such tax proposed as afore-
 said, and so proportionably for any greater or
 lesser Sum that shall be laid and imposed. And
 to each Schedule (being in Number eleven
 together annexed) have subscribed our Names
 this fifteenth Day of *August* in the twentieth
 Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord *Charles*
 the Second, by the Grace of God, of *England*,
Scotland, *France* and *Ireland* King, Defender
 of the Faith, &c. *Annoque Domini* 1668.

*Edward Paribericke, Samuel Fortrey, Richard
 Marryott, John Mingay, Anthony Ham-
 mond, Mark Le Pla, John Bridgman.*



Anno Regni
A C O B I II.

R E G I S

Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,

P R I M O.

At the Parliament begun at *Westminster* the nineteenth Day of *May*
Anno Dom. 1685, in the first Year
of the Reign of our most Gracious
Sovereign Lord *JAMES*, by the
Grace of God, of *England, Scotland,*
France and Ireland King, Defender
of the Faith, &c.

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11 1 8 0 0 0

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Anno Regni

ACOB I II. Regis.

An Act for repealing a Clause for dividing of Commons in an Act of Parliament made in the fifteenth Year of King *Charles* the Second, intituled, *An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level.*

WHEREAS in and by an Act of Parliament made in the fifteenth Year of the Reign of his late Majesty King *Charles* the Second, of ever Blessed Memory, intituled, *An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens called Bedford Level*, there is a Proviso, and it was enacted, That it should and might be lawful for any Person or Persons, Bodies Politick or Corporate, their Heirs and Successors, that were or should be Lords of Manors, or have Right of Common in the

Recital of
15 Car. 2.
Clause therein
giving Lords
of Manors
Power to in-
close and di-
vide Com-
mons.
Com-

Commons and Wastes in the said Level, or within any Town, Parish or Place into which the Works of Draining or any of them did extend, to improve, set out and inclose, divide and sever; such Proportion or Proportions as to them should or might severally and respectively belong, or be adjudged and allotted unto them in Severalty by certain Commissioners appointed in the said Act, and as they should adjudge and determine, as by the said Clause in the said Act more fully appears.

In Pursuance thereof many Lords have divided and inclosed. **AND** whereas since the passing of the said Act several Lords of Manors, and others who had Right of Common in the said Commons and Wastes, did divide and take their said Shares or Proportions thereof,

Taking and cutting Commons into small Pieces found to be very prejudicial; **AND** whereas such taking and cutting of the said Commons and Wastes into small Pieces is since found to be very prejudicial to the Owners and Country, being a great Waste of Ground in Division, which are hard to be kept as Fences between Party and Party, the Roadways and Passages through such Commons as set forth being very low, and generally in bad Ground, not passable or well to be amended, whereby such Divisions are of little Value.

occasions Decrease of Stock and Houses. **AND** whereas it occasions great Diminution of Stock and Decay of Houses, many Persons selling their Shares of Common from the House it belongs unto, to a great Impoverishment and Increase of the Poor; to prevent any further Inconveniencies thereby, Be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with

the Advice and Assent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this Parliament assembled, and by the Authority the same, That the said Clause in the said Act for such dividing and inclosing, shall be hereby repealed and made void, to all Intents and Purposes; and that no more Divisions or Inclosures shall be hereafter made of the said Wastes and Commons therein mentioned pursuant to the said Act; any Thing therein contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Provided always, and it is further enacted, That all Inclosures already made, and certified into the Petty-bag Office pursuant to the said Act, shall be held and enjoyed by the Owners thereof, as fully to all Intents and Purposes as if this Act had not been made.

And whereas several Persons and Townships finding the Inconveniencies of dividing and cutting aforesaid, did come unto Agreements and bound themselves not to divide, but to feed and order the said Commons and Wastes by Way of an equal Stint of Cattle in a like Proportion, to their great Advantage and Improvement; and those Agreements have been confirmed by the Decrees of his Majesty's High Court of Chancery.

Be it therefore enacted, That all such Agreements so made and confirmed by the Decrees as aforesaid, shall be and are hereby ratified and binding to all such Person or Persons who were Parties consenting to the same, and all claiming by, from or under them, or any of them, and according as in the said Decrees are expressed and contained.

And

Decrees and Adjudications for Inclosures, &c. already made, and not returned into the Petty-bag Office, if returned before June 24, 1686, to be good;

otherwise to be null and void.

And whereas divers Persons have had Decrees and Adjudications for Inclosures and Allotments within the said Level already made, by Commissioners in the said Act appointed pursuant to the same Act, have neglected to get the said Decrees and Adjudications to be signed, sealed and certified into the Petty-bag Office, as by the said Act is directed; It is now further provided and enacted, That so many of the said Decrees and Adjudications already made and imperfect as aforesaid, which shall be made perfect by being signed and sealed by the said Commissioners, and certified into the Petty-bag Office in such Manner as by the said Act is appointed, before the four and twentieth Day of *June*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand six hundred eighty-six, shall be good and valid in Law to all Intents and Purposes as if the same had been so perfected at the Time of making this Act, and all Inclosures and Allotments by Virtue thereof shall be enjoyed by the respective Persons interested as if this Act had never been made. And all such of the said Decrees, which shall not be perfected by the said Time in Manner and Form aforesaid, shall be utterly void and null to all Intents and Purposes whatsoever, and all Inclosures by Virtue thereof shall be thrown open as if such Decrees or Adjudications had never been made; any Thing in this Act or in any Law, Statute or Usage contained to the contrary notwithstanding.

Anno Regni
G E O R G I I .
R E G I S

Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,

VICESIMO SEPTIMO.

At the Parliament begun and holden
at *Westminster* the tenth Day of *November* *Anno Dom.* 1747, in the
twenty-first Year of the Reign of
our Sovereign Lord *GEORGE* the
Second, by the Grace of God, of
Great Britain, France and Ireland
King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence continued by several Prorogations to the fifteenth Day of *November* 1753, being the Seventh Session of this present Parliament.

THE HISTORY OF

THE HISTORY OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE

FROM THE FIRST
SETTLEMENTS OF THE
COUNTRY TO THE
PRESENT TIME
BY
JAMES O. HARRIS
AND
J. M. HARRIS

VOLUME I
FROM THE FIRST
SETTLEMENTS TO
THE REVOLUTION

Anno vicesimo septimo

EORGII II. Regis.

1 Act for discharging the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called *Bedford Level*, from a Debt due to the Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln*; and for enabling the Proprietors of Lands in the *North Level*, Part of the said Great Level, to raise Money to discharge the Proportion of the said *North Level* in the Debts of the said Corporation; and for ascertaining and appropriating the Taxes to be laid on

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the said *North Level*; and for
the more effectual draining and
preserving the said *North Level*,
and divers Lands adjoining
thereto in the Manor of
Crowland.

Preamble, re-
citing Clauses
in Act 15 Car.
2.

and Law of
Sewers in
6 Car. 1.

W H E R E A S by an Act of
Parliament made and passed in
the fifteenth Year of the Reign
of his late Majesty King Charles
the Second, intituled, *An Act for settling and
draining of the Great Level of the Fens in the
County of Bedford Level*, reciting, That *Francis Earl of
Bedford*, according to a Law of Sewers made in the
King's *Lynn* in the sixth Year of the Reign of his
late Majesty King *Charles* the First, had undertaken
the draining of the said *Great Level* therein
mentioned to be situate within the Counties
of *Northampton*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Lincoln*,
Cambridge and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of
Ely, and therein particularly bounded and de-

cis, with divers of his Adventurers and Participants, had proceeded in the compleating and finishing the said Works; but that the same could not be preserved without constant Care, great Charge and orderly Government; it was therefore (amongst other Things) enacted, That the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, and the Adventurers and Participants of the said Earl *Francis* and Earl *William*, or either of them, their Heirs and Assigns, in such Manner as therein after is contained, should be a Body Politick and Corporate in Deed and Name, and have Succession for ever, by the Name of *The Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens*, with Power to lay and levy Taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres only, for Support, Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level, and do all other Things in order to the Support, Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level and Works made, and to be made, in such Manner as therein is mentioned; and taking Notice, that by the said Law of Sewers twelve thousand Acres, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, were designed and intended to his said late Majesty King *Charles* the First, and had been set forth and allotted by Bounds in Severalty; and that his said late Majesty had granted two thousand Acres, Part thereof, to *Jerome* Earl of *Portland*, his Heirs and Assigns; and that the said Earl had sold about one thousand five hundred Acres, Part of the said two thousand Acres, to several Persons, and had conveyed the remaining

five hundred Acres to *Benjamin Weston*, Esq; on several Trusts; it was thereby further enacted, That the said two thousand Acres, or such other Lands of equal Value as should be set forth in Exchange of the same, should be and were thereby vested, settled and established in the said several Persons, their Heirs and Assigns respectively, to whom the said Earl of *Portland* had conveyed the same, to be held of the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, of the Manor of *East Greenwich*, by Fealty only, in free and common Soccage, subject nevertheless with the Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, in equal Proportion to all Taxes and Charges necessary and conducing to the Preservation of the said Great Level from drowning; and it was thereby further enacted, that the, eighty-three thousand Acres, Remainder of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, with the said Ways, Passages, new Rivers, Cuts, Drains, Banks and Forelands, over and above the said ten thousand Acres, Residue of the said twelve thousand Acres which were allotted in Severalty, and of which his said late Majesty was in Possession, were thereby vested and settled in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, in Trust for the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, and the Adventurers and Participants of the said Earl *Francis* and Earl *William*, or either of them, their Heirs and Assigns, in such Manner as is therein after limited and provided, and according to such Parts and Proportions as they respectively then held and enjoyed, or by Virtue of the said

said Act ought to hold and enjoy, subject and liable likewise to the Payment of all Taxes and Charges as aforesaid, to be held of the King's Majesty, his Heirs and Successors, of the Manor of *East Greenwich*, by Fealty, in free and common Socage; and the said ten thousand Acres were thereby vested in his then present Majesty, and his Assigns, subject and liable with the Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, to the same Taxes and Charges before specified; and it is thereby further enacted, That the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation for the Time being, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs, or their Successors, or any of them, to be two, for Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level, by convenient Outfalls to the Sea, should for ever thereafter be and were thereby made and constituted Commissioners of Sewers for and of the said Great Level of the Fens; and the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor or Bailiffs, and their Successors, or any of them, to be two, are thereby enabled and empowered from thenceforth, to use and exercise the Power and Authority of Commissioners of Sewers within the said Great Level of the Fens, and of the Works made and to be made without the said Great Level, for conveying the Waters of the said Great Level by convenient Outfalls to the Sea, in such Manner and with such other Powers, Jurisdictions and Authorities as are therein mentioned and contained:

And

and 20 Car. 2. And whereas by another Act of Parliament made and passed in the twentieth Year of his said late Majesty King *Charles* the Second, intituled, *An Act for the taxing and assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens*, after reciting in part the last recited Act, and that the Way therein mentioned of raising Draining Taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres by an equal Acre-Rate had been found inconvenient, it was enacted, That all Taxes thereafter to be set and imposed for the Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level, should be from Time to Time assessed and taxed by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or their Successors, or any five or more of them, whereof the said Governor and Bailiffs for the Time being, or any of them, to be two, upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres, Part and Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, by a gradual Acre-tax of different Sorts and Values of Lands, to be received, paid and levied by such Ways and Means as in the said recited Act are provided; and that the said eighty-three thousand Acres, for raising Taxes for Support and Maintenance of the Great Level, should not be rated or assessed otherwise or in any other Manner than according to a gradual Acre-tax of different Sorts and Degrees, and according to the respective Values and Rates thereby set and rated, and to be set and rated, as is therein after appointed: And it was thereby further enacted, That when and so often as the Sum of six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds
seven

seven Shillings and one Penny Halfpenny should be taxed and assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres, that then the said twelve thousand Acres should be rated and assessed at fifteen Pence the Acre, and according to that Proportion for the raising of any greater or lesser Sum than six thousand one hundred and ten Pounds seven Shillings and one Penny Halfpenny, to be received, paid and levied, together with Penalties, in such and the like Manner as the Taxes set and imposed, or to be set and imposed, upon the said eighty-three thousand Acres, are thereby provided for to be received, paid and levied: And to the End that the said eighty-three thousand Acres might be more equally rated by a gradual Acre-tax, not under the Number of seven Sorts, it was thereby further enacted, That certain Persons in the same Act named, or any three or more of them, were thereby constituted and appointed to be Surveyors and Valuers of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, and were, within the Time therein limited, to digest the said eighty-three thousand Acres into such Number of Sorts or Degrees of Land, not under the Number of seven Sorts and Degrees, and to rate and tax such Degrees, and digest the same into Schedules in Writing, and make Returns thereof, upon their Oaths, into the Fen Office, in such Manner as in and by the said Act is mentioned and directed: And whereas the several Persons, by the said last recited Act appointed to be Surveyors or Valuers, valued and set out the said eighty-three thousand Acres, according to the Directions thereby given,

into eleven different Sorts or Degrees of Land, to be rated and taxed in manner following; that is to say, for a single Tax, four Pence *per* Acre on the first Sort of Land; eight Pence *per* Acre on the second Sort; and so increasing four Pence upon every Sort, the eleventh Sort to be taxed at three Shillings and eight Pence; and all greater or less Sums which the said Corporation should have occasion to raise, were to be rated and assessed in the like Proportions; which Valuations of the said Surveyors were returned by them into the Fen Office, as by the said last mentioned Act was directed; and the said eighty-three thousand Acres have always since been taxed according to the Degrees and Proportions thereby set out and allotted, calling a Tax of four Pence on the first Sort of Land, and increasing on the ten other Sorts in manner aforesaid, a single Tax; five Pence a Tax and Quarter; six Pence a Tax and half; seven Pence a Tax and three Quarters; and eight Pence a double Tax: And whereas at a Court of the said Corporation, held the tenth Day of *March* one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven, the said Corporation declared that the said Great Level should be distinguished by the several Names of the *North Level*, *Middle Level* and *South Level*; and that all that Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, which lay between the North Side of *Moreton's Leame* and the South Side of *Welland River*, should be accounted that Part of the ninety-five thousand Acres lying within the *North Level*: And whereas the said Corporation, in order to support

Court of Corporation held
10 March
1697.

support and preserve the several Works for draining the said Great Level, were obliged to borrow several Sums of Money on Bonds under their common Seal, and by that Means, at *Lady-day* one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, had contracted Debts, amounting in the whole to the principal Sum of seventeen thousand one hundred and fifty Pounds; and some new Works being necessary for better draining the said North Level, Part of the said Great Level, by Indenture bearing Date the twenty-ninth Day of *May* one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, and made or mentioned to be made between the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens of the one Part, and the most Noble *William Duke of Devonshire*, Guardian of the most Noble *Wriothesley* then Duke of *Bedford*, a Minor, and the Right Honourable *Henry* then Earl of *Lincoln* of the other Part; after reciting the said Act of the fifteenth Year of his late Majesty King *Charles* the Second, and that the said Great Level of the Fens was then distinguished by the several Names of the North Level, the Middle Level and the South Level, and that such Part of the said Great Level, as was distinguished by the Name of the North Level, did contain about forty thousand Acres of Land, of which there were about eleven thousand six hundred Acres of Land subject to the said Taxes, and that the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* were Owners and Proprietors of great Part thereof; and further reciting, that the said Duke of

Debt of Corporation at
Lady-day
1728.

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Devonshire as Guardian of the said Duke of *Bedford*, and the said Earl of *Lincoln*, for the Preservation of the respective Estates of the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* in the said North Level, did in the then last Summer actually lay out and expend the Sum of three thousand four hundred Pounds the Monies of the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* in Proportion to their said respective Estates, in regaining and keeping open the Outfall for the Waters of the said North Level to Sea, and in doing several other necessary and material Works, which had tended greatly towards the Draining and Preservation of all the Estates in the said North Level; but by reason of the many and frequent Floods which had of late Years happened, and the Insufficiency of the Banks and Works of the said North Level to resist the same, and particularly by reason of the Weakness and Lowness of the Bank on the North Side of *Moreton's Leam* Wash next the said North Level, the greatest Part of the Lands within the said Level had then lately been and were subject to be drowned, so that little or no Profit could be made thereof, nor could the said North Level be effectually drained or secured for the future, unless the said North Bank was to be enlarged and strengthened; and therefore the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty had resolved to make a Canal in the said Wash, and other Works there, for strengthening and enlarging the said North Bank, the Charge of all which would amount at least to six thousand six hundred Pounds; and further reciting,

ting, that the said Duke of *Devonshire*, on the said Duke of *Bedford's* Behalf and with his Consent, and the said Earl of *Lincoln*, at the Request of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, had agreed to advance the said six thousand six hundred Pounds for the Purposes aforesaid, in Proportion to their said respective Estates in the said North Level, and that the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty had agreed that the Taxes, Revenues and Rents annually laid and arising upon and out of the Lands in the said North Level only, should be made a Security for Repayment as well of the said three thousand four hundred Pounds then already laid out, as for the said six thousand six hundred Pounds to be laid out, and Interest at the Rate of four Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, and were desirous and had proposed that the said Duke of *Devonshire* and Earl of *Lincoln* should have not only the Direction and Disposal of the said six thousand six hundred Pounds in making the said Canal and other new Works, but also that the said Duke of *Devonshire* and Earl of *Lincoln*, during the Minority of the said Duke of *Bedford*, and afterwards the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln*, their respective Heirs and Assigns, should have the Direction, Disposal and Management of the said Taxes, Revenues and Rents of the said North Level to be by them employed and disposed in and about the repairing and maintaining the Works of the said North Level, and making and supporting such other Works as should be necessary or conducing to the effectual draining, securing and

and preserving of the said North Level, and for and towards the Payment of the said principal Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds with Interest as aforesaid, until the said principal Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds and Interest should be fully paid and satisfied; it is witnessed, that in Consideration of the Premises, and for securing the Repayment of the said several Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds and Interest as aforesaid, and for the better enabling the said Dukes of *Devonshire* and *Bedford* and the said Earl of *Lincoln* to compleat their good Designs of effectually draining, securing and preserving the said North Level, by making the said Canal and other Works, which the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty were sensible would be of great Benefit and Advantage to all the Estates in the same Level, they the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, for themselves and their Successors, did covenant and agree to and with the said Dukes of *Devonshire* and *Bedford* and the said Earl of *Lincoln* respectively, and their respective Heirs and Assigns, that it should and might be lawful to and for the said Duke of *Devonshire* and Earl of *Lincoln*, their Agents or Servants duly authorized, during the Minority of the said Duke of *Bedford*, and after the said Duke of *Bedford* should have attained his Age of twenty-one Years, and should have confirmed that Agreement, for the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln*,

Lincoln, their respective Heirs and Assigns, their Agents or Servants duly authorized, without the Interruption or Denial of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or their Successors, to ask for and demand, have, receive and take of and from the Receiver General for the Time being of the said Corporation yearly, and every Year, as the same should become due, and be paid to the said Receiver General, so much and such Part of the said Taxes to be annually laid on the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as should be the Share and Proportion of the Lands within the said North Level liable thereto, together with all other the Rents and Revenues whatsoever of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty in the said North Level, including the Share and Proportion of the Taxes laid upon the Lands within the said North Level for that present Year, and the said Rents and Revenues due and payable for the same Time: And it was thereby declared and agreed, that the yearly Sum of one hundred Pounds, payable by the Heirs or Assigns of Sir *Charles Orby* deceased, to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, should be esteemed and taken as Part of the said Revenue arising within the said North Level; and the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty did thereby authorize, empower and require the said Receiver General for the Time being to pay yearly, and every Year, as the same should become due and be paid to him, all the said Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said North Level, unto the said Dukes of *Devonshire*

shire and *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* respectively, their respective Heirs and Assigns, or their Servants or Agents, without any further or other Warrant to be had from the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty for that Purpose: Provided, That the said Receiver General for the Time being should retain and keep so much of the said Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said North Level, as should be sufficient to satisfy and discharge the yearly Interest of the principal Sum of two thousand Pounds, thencefore taken up upon the common Seal of the said Corporation for the Service of the said Level, until the principal Sum of two thousand Pounds should be paid off and discharged: And it was thereby declared and agreed, That the said Taxes, Rents and Revenues, so to be paid to the said Dukes of *Devonshire* and *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* respectively, their Heirs or Assigns, should be retained, imployed, applied and disposed of, in the first Place, for repairing and maintaining all the Works of the said North Level, and making and supporting such other Works as should be necessary or conducing to the effectual Draining and Preservation of the same Level, and then for paying and satisfying to the said Dukes of *Devonshire* and *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln*, their respective Executors, Administrators and Assigns, according to their respective Proportions and Shares, Interest after the Rate of four Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, for the said several Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds, and then to take, retain and

and keep the Surplus Money for and towards paying off and sinking the said Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds, in such Proportions and by such Payments as should be reasonable and convenient, until the same should be fully paid off and satisfied. And whereas the said Duke of *Bedford*, or the said Duke of *Devonshire* as his Guardian, and the said Earl of *Lincoln* laid out and expended the said Sum of six thousand six hundred Pounds, in Pursuance of the said Agreement, in the Works therein mentioned, and by Virtue of and under the said Agreement, the said Duke of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln*, and their Representatives, have ever since continued in the Receipt of the Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said North Level, but have been obliged to apply the greatest Part thereof for and towards the several Works for draining and preserving the said North Level; so that at *Lady-day* one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three the Sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen Pounds, eleven Shillings and nine Pence was due for Principal and Interest of the said several Sums of three thousand four hundred Pounds and six thousand six hundred Pounds, five sixth Parts whereof is due and owing to the most Noble *John* now Duke of *Bedford*, as Executor of the last Will of the said *Wriotbesley* late Duke of *Bedford*; and the remaining sixth Part thereof is due and owing to the Right Honourable *Henry* Earl of *Lincoln* as Administrator of the said *Henry* late Earl of *Lincoln*: And whereas the Sum of two
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thousand eight hundred and fifty Pounds, Part of the Debt owing by the said Corporation at *Lady-day* one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, was due and owing to the said *Wriothesley* late Duke of *Bedford*, who afterwards in and by his last Will and Testament forgave and discharged the same, which reduced the Debt contracted by the said Corporation before the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight to fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds; and whereas ever since the making and executing the said recited Agreement, the said Dukes of *Bedford* and Earl of *Lincoln* have supported and maintained the Works, Banks and Drains of the said North Level, and the said Corporation have not been at any Charge or Expence in or about the same, but the said Corporation have since the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight borrowed several large Sums of Money on Bonds, under their common Seal, to the amount in the whole of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty Pounds, all which has been by them laid out and expended in and about the said Middle and South Levels, and for supporting and preserving the Banks, Drains and Works thereof; so that the said Corporation is now indebted in the several Sums of Money following, that is to say, In the said Sum of fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds, contracted before the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, for or on Account of the whole of the said Great Level; the said Sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen Pounds, eleven Shillings

Shillings and nine Pence, contracted since the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight for or on Account of and particularly charged upon the said North Level ; and the said Sum of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty Pounds contracted since the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight for or on Account of the said Middle and South Levels, amounting together to forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence : And whereas it has been found by Experience that the Taxes, Revenues and Rents arising and payable to the said Corporation out of the said North Level are not near sufficient to pay off and discharge the said Debt particularly charged thereon, and to defray the Charges and Expences of maintaining, supporting and keeping in Repair the several Works for draining thereof ; and notwithstanding the greatest Part of the Revenues of the said North Level have ever since the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight been laid out in and about the same, the several Banks, Rivers, Sewers and Works of the same Level are become so greatly decayed and ruinous that great Part of the Lands in the same Level have lately been very frequently flooded, and unless some immediate Remedy be applied will become intirely drowned and of little or no Value : And whereas the Lands called *Portsand*, otherwise *Great Portsand*, Parcel of the Demesnes belonging to and lying within the Manor of *Crowland* in *South Holland* in the County of *Lincoln*, herein after

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particularly bounded and described, are subject also to be frequently flooded, and cannot be effectually drained and preserved without a large Expence; and whereas the said Lands called *Portsand*, otherwise *Great Portsand*, adjoin to the said North Level on the North Part thereof and lie convenient to be drained therewith, and it will be for the mutual Benefit and Advantage of the Proprietors or Owners thereof, and of the Proprietors or Owners of the Lands within the said North Level to join in one common Drainage; and in order thereto the Proprietors or Owners of the said Manor of *Crowland* and Lands called *Portsand*, otherwise *Great Portsand*, and the Proprietors or Owners of the greatest Part of the Lands within the said North Level, are willing and desirous that a sufficient Sum of Money for the effectual draining of all the said Lands shall be raised by a Tax upon all the said Lands, to be ordered, governed and disposed of in such manner as herein after is mentioned, provided that the said North Level be discharged from the Debts of the said Corporation, and that all the Taxes, Rents and Revenues, which shall hereafter arise and become payable to the said Corporation out of the said North Level, be applied under the Direction of the said Corporation for the Benefit of the said North Level only, in such manner as herein after is mentioned: And whereas the Taxes, Rents and Revenues, arising and payable to the said Corporation out of the said North Level, are about one eighth Part of the Taxes, Rents and Revenues arising and payable to the said

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Corporation out of the whole of the said Great Level of the Fens, and therefore the said North Level is subject and liable to raise and pay one eighth Part of the said Debt of fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds, which was contracted by the said Corporation before the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, on Account of the whole of the said Great Level of the Fens; and in order to raise Money to pay off and discharge the same, it has been proposed that so much of the Taxes charged on the Corporation Lands within the said North Level, by Virtue of or under the said recited Act of the fifteenth of King *Charles* the Second, shall be sold in such manner as herein after is mentioned, as shall raise a sufficient Sum of Money for that Purpose: And whereas the said *John* Duke of *Bedford* and *Henry* Earl of *Lincoln*, being desirous to promote so good and beneficial an Undertaking, have consented and are willing to exonerate and discharge the said Corporation of and from the said Debt of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence, and to yield up and surrender all the Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said North Level which they are intitled to receive by Virtue of and under the said recited Agreement, and to release and discharge all their Right, Title and Interest in and to the same, on Condition that the Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said Middle and South Levels, be for the future only chargeable with the Residue of the said Debt of fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds contracted be-

fore the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, and with the said Debt of fifteen thousand nine hundred and forty Pounds, contracted on Account of the said Middle and South Levels since the Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight; and that the said North Level, and the Taxes, Rents and Revenues thereof be fully and absolutely discharged of and from all the Debts of the said Corporation and every Part thereof: And whereas at a Court of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, held at the Fen Office on *Saturday* the twenty-fourth Day of *February* one thousand seven hundred and fifty-three, a Plan according to the said Proposals, and for effecting and carrying the said Underraking into Execution, in such manner as herein after is mentioned, was laid before the said Court, and the said Court thereupon came to the following Resolutions, *videlicet*; That it appearing to the Board that the Debt due from this Corporation in the Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight was fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds, and that the Taxes upon all the three Levels at a Tax and a Quarter amount to six thousand three hundred and fourteen Pounds three Shillings and eleven Pence Halfpenny, of which the Tax arising from the North Level is seven hundred and seventy-seven Pounds three Shillings and four Pence Halfpenny, being about one eighth Part, it is the Opinion of this Board, that if his Grace the Duke of *Bedford* and Lord *Lincoln*

coln remit the Debt of about nineteen thousand Pounds, which is due to them under the Agreements made with them by this Corporation in one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, for draining the North Level, and the Proprietors of the North Level will pay one thousand eight hundred Pounds as their Proportion of the said Debt of fourteen thousand three hundred Pounds, it will be for the Interest of the other two Levels for this Corporation to consent, that the Lands of the North Level be exonerated from the Payment of the Remainder of the said Debt and the subsequent Debts of the Corporation by the Act of Parliament intended to be applied for, for the better draining of that Level: And the remaining Part of the said Plan being read, the Board resolved, that the same did not in any wise appear to be prejudicial to either of the Levels belonging to the said Corporation, and therefore they did approve thereof: And whereas the said Corporation and the Creditors of the said Corporation, and the Proprietors of the greatest Part of the taxable Lands within the said Middle and South Levels, having seen and considered the said Proposals, approve thereof, and are willing and consenting that the same should be carried into Execution: And whereas the effectual draining and preserving the said North Level and the said Lands within the Manor of *Crowland*, which contain together about forty-eight thousand Acres, would be of great Benefit and Advantage to the several Proprietors thereof, and of Service to the Publick in general, and if

the Proposals and Agreements before mentioned are carried into Execution, it is apprehended and believed that the same may be effectually drained and preserved; but in regard the same cannot be effected, or the Money necessary for that Purpose raised, without the Aid and Authority of Parliament, Be it therefore enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That

The Corporation of Conservators of Bedford Level discharged from the Debt of 18913*l.* 11*s.* 9*d.* due to John Duke of Bedford and Henry Earl of Lincoln;

the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens and their Successors, and all and every the Taxes, Rents and Revenues arising and payable to the said Corporation by, from or out of the Lands in the said North Level or any Part thereof, and all and every other the Lands, Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said Corporation shall be and are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from the said Debt or Sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence, so as aforesaid due and owing to the said *John Duke of Bedford* and *Henry Earl of Lincoln*, by Virtue of and under the said recited Indenture of the twenty-ninth Day of *May* one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, and every Part thereof, and all Interest payable for or in Respect thereof; and that the said recited Indenture of the twenty-ninth Day of *May* one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight shall be and is hereby enacted and declared to be from

and the recited Indenture of 29 May 1728, declared void.

from henceforth null and void; and the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, and the said *John Duke of Bedford*, and *Henry Earl of Lincoln*, their respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, and the Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns of the said *Wriothesley* late Duke of *Bedford*, and *Henry* late Earl of *Lincoln*, are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from all and every the Covenants, Clauses, Articles, Conditions and Agreements in the said recited Indenture contained.

And whereas the said yearly Sum of one hundred Pounds, mentioned in the said recited Indenture of the twenty-ninth Day of *May* one thousand seven hundred and twenty eight to be payable by the Heirs or Assigns of Sir *Charles Orby*, deceased, to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, was payable in Pursuance of certain Articles of Agreement, made the tenth Day of *July*, which was in the Year of our Lord one thousand six Hundred and ninety-seven, between the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the one Part, and the said Sir *Charles Orby* of the other Part, for a Term of twenty-eight Years, which long since expired: Now for the obviating and avoiding all Doubts, Questions and Controversies which may any wise happen or arise in relation to the said yearly Sum of one hundred Pounds, or the Non-payment thereof, or any Arrears thereof; it is hereby further enacted The Executors
of Sir Charles
Orby and Thomas Orby Hunter, discharged from Payment of the annual Sum of 100 *l.* to the Company.

and from all
Covenants in
the Articles of
10 July 1697.

and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the Heirs and Assigns of the said Sir *Charles Orby*, and *Thomas Orby Hunter*, Esq; his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from the Payment of the said yearly Sum of one hundred Pounds to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators aforesaid, and their Successors or Assigns, and of and from all Arrears thereof; and the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, and the Heirs and Assigns of the said Sir *Charles Orby* deceased, and the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*, his Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, are hereby fully and absolutely freed and discharged of and from all and every the Covenants, Clauses, Articles, Conditions and Agreements, contained in the said Articles of the tenth Day of *July* one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven before-mentioned.

And in order to raise Money sufficient to satisfy and discharge the said Sum of one thousand eight hundred Pounds, so as aforesaid ascertained and declared to be the Proportion of the said North Level, of and in the Debts of the said Corporation, contracted before the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight; it is hereby further enacted and declared, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the Proprietors of taxable Lands within the said North Level, to purchase off so much of the Taxes chargeable on their respective Lands, by virtue of or under the said recited Acts of Parliament of the fifteenth and
Act 15 & 20
Car. II.

twen-

fortieth Years of the Reign of his said late
 Majesty King *Charles* the Second, at and after
 Rate of thirty Years Purchase, computing
 settling the said Taxes on the said eighty-
 five thousand Acres at a Tax and a Quarter ;
 on the said twelve thousand Acres in Pro-
 portion thereto, according to the said Act of
 twentieth of King *Charles* the Second, as
 shall be sufficient to raise the said Sum of one
 thousand eight hundred Pounds; and in order
 thereto, it shall and may be lawful to and for
 the said several Proprietors of taxable Lands,
 at any Time on or before the twenty-fourth
 Day of *June* which shall be in the Year of our
 Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-
 four, to subscribe in a Book to be kept by the
 Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or their
 Register, for that Purpose, at their Office in
 the *Inner Temple, London*, for the Purchase of
 the Taxes of so much of their respective Lands
 as they shall be respectively willing and desirous
 to purchase off, at and after the Rate afore-
 said ; and in Case the Purchase of more of the
 said Taxes shall be so subscribed for, on or be-
 fore the said twenty-fourth Day of *June* one
 thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, than
 shall be sufficient to raise the said Sum of one
 thousand eight hundred Pounds; then, and in
 such Case, the Purchase thereof shall be allotted
 and settled by the said Governor, Bailiffs and
 Commonalty amongst the said Subscribers, in
 equal Average and Proportion to the Taxes
 payable by them respectively ; and upon Pay-
 ment of the several Sums of Money so to be
 subscribed or allotted for the Purchase of the
 Taxes

as will raise
 the Sum of
 1800 *l.* and
 enter Subscrip-
 tions for the
 same, before
 24 June 1754
 Payment there-
 of to be made
 by 29 Sep.
 1754 ; and to
 be applied in
 discharging
 the said Deb

Company to
execute Re-
leases of the
Taxes to the
Purchasers.

Taxes aforesaid, on or before twenty-ninth Day of *September* which shall be in the said Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or their Treasurer, to be by them applied for and towards Payment of the Debts contracted by the said Corporation before the said Year one thousand seven hundred and twenty-eight, the said several Purchasers, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, and their respective Lands and Tenements, shall be from thenceforth fully and absolutely freed, exonerated and discharged of and from the Taxes by them so purchased as aforesaid, and of and from all other Rates and Taxes whatsoever chargeable on the Lands by them so exonerated as aforesaid, by virtue of or under the said several Acts of Parliament of the fifteenth and twentieth Years of King *Charles* the Second, or either of them; and it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and they are hereby required, upon such Payment as aforesaid, at the Costs of such Purchasers, to execute under their common Seal, good and sufficient Releases and Discharges to the said several Purchasers, their respective Heirs, Executors, Administrators and Assigns, of and from the Taxes so by them respectively purchased as aforesaid, particularly describing and bounding therein the Lands which shall be thereby released and exonerated from Taxes in Pursuance of such Purchases.

And

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the Taxes chargeable by virtue of and under the said Acts of the fifteenth and twentieth Years of King *Charles* the Second, or either of them, upon the Residue of the taxable Lands within the said North Level, which shall not be so exonerated as aforesaid, shall be always hereafter, and hereby are, fixed and settled upon so much thereof as shall be Part of the said eighty-three thousand Acres, at a Tax and a Quarter, and on so much thereof as shall be Part of the said twelve thousand Acres, in Proportion thereto, according to the said Act of the twentieth of King *Charles* the Second; and shall not be lessened or increased under any Pretence whatsoever; and that all the Money which shall arise, or be produced by the said Taxes within the said North Level, and all other the Rents and Revenues arising and payable to the said Corporation by, from or out of the said North Level, or any Part thereof, shall from henceforth be applied and disposed of by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, in and about the several Banks and Works of the said Level herein after-mentioned; that is to say, In the first Place to raise, make good and keep in Repair, the North Bank of *Moreton's Leame*, the East Bank of *Cordike* from *Moreton's Leame* to the *Folly Bank*, the *Folly Banks* from *Cordike* to the River *Welland*, the Bank reaching from the *Folly Bank* to *Peakirk Town*, and the South Bank of the River *Welland* to *West Dam* at the End of *Crowland Town*, until the said Banks shall be made of such

The Taxes chargeable by Acts 15 & 20 Car. II. to be continued on the Residue of the Lands not exonerated,

and to be applied in the Works of the Level herein mentioned and described.

Members for
Lands in the
North Level
not to vote
concerning
borrowing
Money, for
the Middle
and South Le-
vels.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons that shall be qualified to sit and vote as a Member of the said Corporation, for or in respect of Lands or Grounds in the said North Level only, shall, at any Time hereafter, have any Vote, Power or Authority concerning the borrowing any Money for the Service of the Middle and South Levels, or either of them, or which the Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them only, shall be subject and liable to the Payment of.

The Lands to
be drained to
be divided in-
to Districts.

And for the better effecting the Purposes of this present Act, it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the said several Lands and Grounds intended to be drained under the Powers and Authority of this present Act, shall be and hereby are divided into five Districts or Divisions in manner herein after-mentioned, and that the Waters of the said several Districts or Divisions shall run and be conveyed to Sea, in, by and through the several Rivers and Drains herein after-mentioned; that is to say, the first of the said Districts or Divisions shall contain all that Part of the North Level which is bounded as follows; On the North by the River *Welland* from the Folly Bank to *Crowland* Bridge, and from thence to the Place where the River Catwater now falls into the River Old South Eau, by the South-west Bank of the said River Old South Eau, otherwise the antient Branch of the *Nene*, including the said South-West Bank; on the East, by the West Bank
of

The first Di-
strict of the
Lands,

of the River Catwater from the said Place where the said River falls into the Old South Eau aforesaid, to the North Side of *Thorney* Causeway, including the said Bank; on the South, by the Road leading from *Thorney* Causeway aforesaid to Cordike, at the West End of *Eye* Town; and on the West, from that Part of Cordike, which is at the West End of *Eye* Town aforesaid to the River *Welland*, by the East Bank of Cordike and the Folly Bank; and that the Waters of the said District or Division shall run and be conveyed to Sea into any Part of the said River Old South Eau, otherwise the said antient Branch of the River *Nene*, between *Crowland* Town End and the said Place where Catwater now falls into the said River Old South Eau, and in, by and through that Part of Catwater which lies between Pepper Lake and the said River Old South Eau, and all or any of the interior Drains within the said District, and down that Part of the said River Old South Eau which lies within the North Level on the North Side thereof to Clows Cross, and from thence into, by and through Shire Drain to Sea; with full Liberty and Power of opening and shutting the Gates or Doors which stand at the Place where the said River Catwater falls into the Old South Eau, as Occasion shall require: The second District or Division shall contain all that Part of the North Level which is bounded as follows; that is to say, On the North, in part by the said Road leading from Cordike aforesaid, through *Eye* Town, to *Thorney* Causeway, and in part by the South Bank

the Drains thro' which the Waters are to be conveyed into the Sea.

The Second District.

Bank of *Thorney* Dike; on the East, in part (from *Thorney* Causeway aforesaid to *Thorney* Cross, where Catwater turns off Westward towards *Story's* Bar) by the West Bank of Catwater, and in part from the South Bank of *Thorney* Dike aforesaid to the Counter Drain by the West Bank of Knarlake; on the West, by Cordike, from the West End of *Eye* Town aforesaid to *Moreton's* Leame; and on the South, by the Counter Drain aforesaid, from the upper Part of the Severals in Stand Ground to the West Bank of Knarlake aforesaid, including all the said Banks; and that the Waters of the said last-mentioned District or Division shall run and be conveyed to Sea, in; by and through all or any of the interior Drains within the said District, into the Counter-Drain aforesaid; and in, by and through the Counter-Drain aforesaid to Guyhirn; and from thence down the Old South Eau to Clows Cross; and from thence in, by and through Shire Drain to Sea: The third District or Division shall contain the Lordship of *Thorney*, which is bounded on the West by Catwater; from *Thorney* Cross aforesaid to the Old South Eau; on the North, by the South Bank of the Old South Eau, from the said Place where Catwater now falls into the said River Old South Eau aforesaid, to Gold Dike, including the said Bank; on the East, in part by Gold Dike and in part by Knarlake; and on the South by *Thorney* Dike, including the said River and Drain of Catwater and *Thorney* Dike; and that the Waters of the said last-mentioned District or Division shall run or be conveyed into Gold

The Drains by which the Waters are to be conveyed.

The third District.

The Drains for conveying the Waters thereof.

Gold Dike, and from Gold Dike to Clows Cross by the New South Eau to *Tbrockenbolt*; and from thence on the South Side of *Tbrockenbolt* to Clows Cross; or by the Drain that runs from Gold Dike to Clows Cross, between *Sutton* Common and *Inkerfon* Fen, and by *Knarlake* into the Counter-Drain aforesaid; and in, by and through Shire Drain to Sea, in such Manner as shall be found most convenient by the said *John Duke of Bedford*, the sole Owner of the said District, his Heirs and Assigns: The fourth District or Division shall contain all that Part of the said North Level, which is bounded on the West by the East Bank of Gold Dike and the East Bank of *Knarlake*; on the North, by the South Bank of that Part of the Old South Eau which runs from Gold Dike to Clows Cross; on the East, by the West Bank of that Part of the Old South Eau which runs from *Guyhirn* to Clows Cross; and on the South, by the North Bank of the Counter Drain aforesaid, including all the said Banks. And that the Waters thereof shall run or be conveyed to Sea into, by and through Shire Drain, by the Counter-Drain aforesaid, and that Part of the Old South Eau which runs from *Guyhirn* to Clows Cross; and the fifth District or Division shall contain the Lands before-mentioned, called *Portsand*, otherwise *Great Portsand*, bounded on the East by *Holbeach* and *Whapload* Lands and the Willow Row Bank, from *Dowisdale* to the River *Asen-dike*; on the North, by the said River *Asen-dike* and the River *Welland*, from the Willow Row Bank to *Whitehouse*, otherwise *Eppinbolt*.
 Ec Corner;

The fourth District.

The Drain for carrying off the Waters thereof.

The Fifth District.

The Drains
for carrying
off the Waters
thereof.

The Waters
to be convey-
ed through the
respective
Drains, with-
out Obstructi-
on from the
Conservators
of the Great
Level.

Corner; on the West, by the said River *Welland*, and by the North-east Bank of the said River Old South Eau, otherwise antient Branch of the *Nene*, from *Eppinbolt* Corner aforesaid to *Turketullus's* Cross, near the Place where Car-water now falls into the Old South Eau; and on the South by the North Bank of the said River Old South Eau, from *Turketullus's* Cross to *Dowdsdale*, including the said North-east Bank and North Bank; and that the Waters of the said last-mentioned District or Division shall run and be conveyed through *Dowdsdale* Bank, being the before-mentioned North-east Bank and North Bank, into any Part or Parts of the said antient Branch of the *Nene*, otherwise Old South Eau, and of the said River Old South Eau between *Crowland Town End* and *Dowdsdale*, and from thence by the said River Old South Eau into, by and through Shire Drain aforesaid to Sea.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the Waters of the said several Districts or Divisions, shall run or be conveyed to Sea in, by and through the several Rivers or Drains herein before mentioned and appointed, to the said several Districts respectively for that Purpose, without any Lett, Hindrance, Obstruction or Controul of, from or by the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, or their Successors, in any Manner or under any Right whatsoever, or of, from or by the Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution,

cution, or any of them, under any Pretence whatsoever, otherwise than as herein after is mentioned.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several Persons herein after named shall be, and hereby are, constituted and appointed Commissioners for the executing and effecting the Powers, Authorities and Purposes of this present Act, until the last Monday in the Month of June which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty five; that is to say, for the said first District or Division, The Right Honourable *Brownlow* Earl of *Exeter*, The Right Honourable *Henry* Earl of *Lincoln*, *Timothy Brecknock*, *Thomas Moore*, Esquires; *Samuel Sharp*, *William Landen*, *John Walton*, *William Walton* senior, *Thomas Robert Gates*, *Charlton Wyldbore*, Gentlemen; for the said second District or Division, The Right Honourable *George William* Earl of *Coventry*, *Richard Tryce*, *John Wildbore*, Esquires; *Daniel Bailey* senior, Gentleman, *Robert Blake*, Esq; *George Johnson*, *Thomas Moore* junior, *William Aveling* of *Eldernel*, Gentlemen; for the said third District or Division, His Grace the most Noble *John* Duke of *Bedford*, *Samuel Henry Pont*, *Benjamin Woodward*, *Matthew Wyldbore*, *George Waddington*, *Robert Butcher*, Esquires; *Thomas Neale* Clerk, *M. A. Berry Dodson*, *William Sisson* senior, *William Preston*, *Langley Edwards*, *Thomas Bullock*, *Richard Bayley*, *James Brown*, *Abraham Baley*, *John Bains*, *John Brittain*, *Robert Chapman*, *John Congreve*, *John Delaney*, *John Egar*, *Thomas Fowler*,

Commissioners
for the several
Districts.

Fowler, Thomas Hawkins, William Little, John Milfield, William Morris, Benjamin Ris, Joseph Rolls, Job Rowning, Samuel Sharpe of Thorney, John Sharpe, Thomas Speechley, George Searle, John Wing, Gentlemen; for the said fourth District or Division, The Reverend George Reynolds LL.D. the Reverend Charles Reynolds D.D. Armstead Parker, Spelman Swaine, John Sly, Esquires; Henry Burrough Clerk, M. A. James Ris Clerk, John Sumpter Esq; John Dickenson Clerk, M. A. Abraham Gerbow, Robert Wensley, Thomas Awdley, Francis Hardy; and for the said fifth District or Division, Thomas Orby Hunter Esquire, James Benson Clerk, John Crawford Esq; Thomas Brecknock, Charles Crawford, John Kelk, William Peers, John De Key, James Ufill, Thomas Kingston, William Cowling, Isaac Whitfeld, James Goglar, Thomas Webster, and Hugh Worrell.

Commis-
sioners to have
a yearly gene-
ral Meeting,
to make a Rate
for draining
on all Lands
not herein ex-
cepted ;

And for the effectual raising and levying Money for the general draining and preserving the Lands and Grounds comprized in all the said five several Districts or Divisions, and answering the Purposes of this present Act ; it is hereby further enacted by the Authority afore-
said, That the Commissioners hereby nomi-
nated and appointed, and such other Commis-
sioners as shall hereafter succeed them, or be
nominated or appointed, elected or chosen, in
their or any of their Steads, by virtue of the
Powers and Authority hereby given for that
Purpose, or any forty or more of them, shall
meet yearly at the House called *The Duke's
Head Inn* in *Thorney*, in the said Isle of *Ely*
and

and County of *Cambridge*, so long as the same shall continue an Inn or Publick House, or otherwise at such other House in the Town of *Tborney* aforesaid, as the Commissioners for the Time being, or the major Part of them who shall be present at any general Meeting, shall think proper and appoint, on the first *Monday* which shall happen in the Month of *July*, at ten of the Clock in the Forenoon in every Year; the first of the said Meetings to be had and held on *Monday* the first Day of *July* which will be in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four; and then and there, from Time to Time, shall assess, rate, tax and charge all and every the respective Owner or Owners, Occupier or Occupiers of all and singular the Lands and Grounds situate and being within the said several Districts or Divisions herein before-mentioned and described, or any of them, (except *Great Burrough Fen Common*, otherwise *Peterborough Great Fen Common*; the Common now commonly called *The four hundred Acre Common* in *Alderlands*; *Little Borough Fen Common*, otherwise *Peterborough Little Fen Common*, otherwise *Flagg Fen Common*, and that Part of *Sutton Common* which lies South of *Old South Eau*; and also except all the Lands called *Hurt's Grounds*, in the Parish of *Stand Ground*; and also all the Lands of *Oxney* and *Tanbolt Farms*, *Chapel Close*, *Borough-bill Closes*, *Padbam's Peakirk* long Meadows, *Peakirk* little Meadows, and the Closes adjoining thereto; *Newark-Edgerly*, and the Closes adjoining thereto towards the West and North; *Billingfwood*,

and the Closes adjoining thereto, in the Parish of *Paſton*; the Lands called *The Inbams*, lying South of the *Folly Bank*, and the Closes at the South End of the *Inbams*, called *Puttock Closes*; and also except all the Highlands in *Eyebury* and *Newark*; and all the Highlands in the Parishes of *Peterborough*, *Werrington*, *Glington*, *Peakirk Eye*, *Stand Ground* and *Whittlesey*, or any of them) by and with equal and proportionable yearly Rates, Taxes or Sums of Money, at the Discretion of the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such yearly general Meeting; so that the said Rates or Taxes for the first four Years, to be computed from the Feast of the Nativity of *St. John the Baptist* which shall be in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, be after the yearly Rate of one Shilling for every Acre of the Lands and Grounds comprized within all the said several Districts or Divisions (except as is before excepted); and so that after the Expiration of the said Term of four Years the said Rates or Taxes do not exceed, in any one Year, six Pence for every Acre of the Lands and Grounds comprized within all the said several Districts or Divisions (except as is before excepted); and so that no Part of the said Lands and Grounds be, at any Time, charged by virtue of this Act, with any greater or lesser Rate or Tax than the rest of the said Lands are or shall be charged with; which said Rates, Taxes and Sums of Money, so to be taxed and assessed as aforesaid, shall be paid by the respective Owners or Occupiers of the said Lands

the same for
the first four
Years to be at
1 s. per Acre,

after not to
exceed 6 d.
per Acre in
any one Year;

the same to be
paid Half-
yearly.

Lands or Grounds, at the Feast Days of the Nativity of *St. John the Baptist* and the Birth of our Lord *Christ*, in every Year, by equal Half-yearly Payments, to such Person or Persons, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any general Meeting, shall, from Time to Time, order, direct or appoint the same; the first Payment thereof to be made at the Feast Day of the Birth of our Lord *Christ* which will be in the said Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four; and which said Rates or Taxes shall be subject to and chargeable with such Sum or Sums of Money as shall be advanced, borrowed, raised and received on the Credit thereof, in Manner herein after-mentioned.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the Quantities of the Lands and Grounds so to be rated and taxed as aforesaid shall, on or before *Monday* the second Day of *September* one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, be given in to the Surveyor, Treasurer or Clerk, to be appointed by the said Commissioners, and ascertained by the Oath of the Owners, Proprietors or Occupiers thereof, or solemn Affirmation of such of them as are or shall be of the People called *Quakers*, or other sufficient Witness or Witnesses to be made before the said Commissioners, or any two or more of them; (which Oath or Affirmation the said Commissioners, or any two or more of them, are hereby impowered to administer); and if

The Quantities of the Lands rateable by the Proprietors, to be given in upon Oath by 29th Sept. 1754.

and on their Neglect or Refusal to do so, the Lands to be surveyed and charged according thereto.

any of the said Owners, Proprietors or Occupiers shall neglect or refuse to give in to such Surveyor, Treasurer or Clerk a particular Account of the Number of Acres contained in their several Lands and Grounds, and make Oath or Affirmation of the Truth thereof by the Time aforesaid, it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any general Meeting, to order a Survey to be made by such Person or Persons as they shall think proper, of the Lands and Grounds of the several Persons who shall so neglect or refuse to give in such Account, and make such Oath or Affirmation of the Truth thereof as aforesaid; and any Survey which shall be so made, shall be a sufficient Warrant and Authority to the said Commissioners to ascertain and determine the Quantities of the Lands and Grounds of the Persons so neglecting or refusing to give in such Account; and the Charge of such Survey shall be paid by the Person or Persons so neglecting or refusing.

and the said Persons to pay the Charges of the Survey.

The Monies raised to be applied by the Commissioners in Manner herein directed.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the Taxes and Sums of Money so to be assessed, rated, raised and received as aforesaid, and also all Sums of Money to be borrowed and received on the Credit thereof, in manner herein after-mentioned, shall, from Time to Time, be applied and disposed of by the Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any general Meeting, in Manner following; that

that is to say, in the first Place, in the paying and defraying the Charges of this Act; and in the next Place, for and towards the general Works of draining and preserving all the said Districts or Divisions herein after-mentioned; that is to say, in cleansing out, widening and deepning the said antient Branch of the River *Nene*, otherwise *Old South Eau*, and the said River *Old South Eau*, from *Crowland Town* to *Clowes Cross*; the said River *Old South Eau*, from *Clowes Cross* to *Guybirk*; the River *Catwater*, from about twenty Feet above *Thorney Cross* to *Stary's Bar*; and in making, cleansing out, widening and deepening a Dike or Drain from *Stary's Bar* to or near *North Eau Gravel*, and also the Counter Drain from the East End of the Severals in *Stand Ground* to *Guybirk* and *Gold Dike* and *Knarlake*; and the *New South Eau* from *Gold Dike* to *Tbrockenbolt*, or the said Drain between *Sutton Common* and *Inkersen Fen* from *Gold Dike* to *Tbrockenbolt*; (which the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns, shall elect or choose to be cleansed, widened, and deepened) and the said Drain on the South Side of *Tbrockenbolt* from such of the said Drains which shall be so cleansed, widened and deepened, as aforesaid, to *Clowes Cross*; and also in raising, strengthening and maintaining the North-east and North Banks of the said antient Branch of the *Nene*, otherwise *Old South Eau*, and of the said River *Old South Eau*, from *Crowland Town* to *Dowdale*; and the South-west and South Banks of the said Rivers, from *Crowland Town* to *Clowes Cross*; and the West Bank of the *Old South Eau*,
from

from *Clows Cross* to *Guybirt*, in such Manner, and to such Height and Strength at least, as shall be sufficient to defend the Lands against a Head of Water which may arise four Feet above the Level of the Lands adjoining to the said Rivers; and also in raising, strengthening and maintaining both the Banks of *Catwater* from about twenty Feet above *Tborney Cross* to *Story's Bar*; both the Banks of the said Drain or Dike from *Story's Bar* to the *Counter-Drain*; the North Bank of the *Counter-Drain*, from the East End of the Severals in *Stand Ground* to *Guybirt*; both the Banks of *Gold Dike* and *Knarlake*; and either both the Banks of *New South Ean*, from *Gold Dike* to *Tbrockenbolt*; or both the Banks of the Drain between *Sutton Common* and *Inkerfon Fen* from *Gold Dike* to *Tbrockenbolt*; at the Election of the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns; and both the Banks of the Drain on the South Side of *Tbrockenbolt*, from such of the said Drains as shall be so elected as afore-said, to *Clows Cross*, to the Height and Strength herein before directed, of and concerning the Banks of the said Rivers *Nene* and *Old South Eau*; and also in damming up the *Old Wryde* on the East Side of *Gold Dike*; and in damming up the North End of *Gold Dike*; and also in making a Dam at or near the South End of *Gold Dike*, or at or near the South End of *Knarlake*; and in keeping and continuing the said Drain so dammed up; and also in supporting, repairing and maintaining the *Pointing Doors* now standing at or near the Place where *Catwater* now falls into the said River

River *Old South Eau* ; and also in scouring out *Shire Drain* from *Clows Cross* to *Guntborpe Sluice* ; and in heightening, strengthening and maintaining the Banks on Both Sides *Shire Drain*, in such good and substantial Manner as to be sufficient to convey the Waters running through the said several Rivers and Drains down to *Guntborpe Sluice* ; and in erecting, working, supporting and repairing so many Engines or Mills, not exceeding eight, between *Shire Goat*, otherwise *Hill Sluice*, otherwise *Tid Goat Sluice*, and *Guntborpe Sluice*, for throwing out and discharging the Waters coming down *Shire Drain* to Sea, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any such yearly General Meeting as aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, in their Discretion think proper and order to be erected, supported and worked ; and in widening, altering, rebuilding, repairing and amending *Guntborpe Sluice*, *Shire Goat* and *Hill Sluice*, otherwise *Tid Goat Sluice* aforesaid, and the several Bridges, Clows and Sluices in and over *Shire Drain*, *Old South Eau*, *Counter Drain*, *New South Eau*, the said Drain between *Sutton Common* and *Inkersen Fen*, and the said ancient Branch of the *Nene*, and in scouring out the Reservoir and Sands at and near the Outfall from *Shire Drain* to Sea, from Time to Time, as Occasion shall require, and in making and maintaining such other convenient Bridges over *Catwater* and the *Counter-Drain*, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any such yearly General Meeting as aforesaid, in their

their Discretion shall think fit
discharging the Wages and Salaries
and other necessary Expences.

Provided always, and it is hereby
declared, That no further or greater
Sum of Money than the Sum of four
hundred and fifty Pounds, shall ever be allowed or paid out of the
Treasury for the Charges or Expences of any
Commissioners.

Provided also, and it is hereby
declared, That a sufficient Part of the
Rates and Taxes, and the Money to be
rowed on the Credit of this Act, shall be
first Place, after paying and defraying
Charges of this Act, be applied and
of in cleansing out and deepening the
ver Old Smiths East, from Clows Croft to
here, and in making, raising and strengthening
the West Bank thereof, to the Height
Strength herein before directed, and in
ring up the Old Wyde at the Place aforesaid
and in making, raising and strengthening
East Bank of Gold Dike, both Banks of
like, and in cleansing, widening
Cottwater from about the
Croft to the

No more than
400. allowed
for the Charges
of any one
Meeting of
the Commission
ers.

The Rivers
and Banks,
&c. which
are to be first
repaired and
cleansed.

every Year, between *Michalmas* and *Christmas*; and in heightening, strengthening and maintaining the Banks on both Sides *Shire Drain*, in such good and substantial Manner as to be sufficient to convey the Waters running through the said several Rivers and Drains down to *Guntborpe Sluice*; and afterwards in or about such of the other Works herein before-mentioned, as the said Commissioners for the Time being, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any such General Meeting, shall, in their Discretion, think most necessary to be done for answering the Purposes of this Act.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the Dam herein before directed to be made in the said Drain, called *Old Wryde*, shall not be hereafter removed or taken away; but that the said Drain called *Old Wryde*, shall always hereafter continue and be dammed up at the Place aforesaid; and that the said other Dams, herein before directed to be made, shall not, after so made, be removed or taken away.

The Dam to be made in the *Old Wryde* Drain, not to be afterwards removed, &c.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the *Counter-Drain* from the West End of the Severals in *Stand Ground*, to the East End of the said Severals, shall be cleansed and scoured out, from Time to Time, at the sole Expence of and by the Proprietor or Proprietors of the said Severals, for the Time being.

The Counter-Drain from the Severals to be cleansed at the Proprietors Charge.

Provided also, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That if it shall be found necessary to widen, alter or take down a certain Bridge

If Dunton Hall Bridge be taken down, or altered, the Commissioners to build another.

Bridge over *Shire Drain* aforesaid, called *Dunton Hall Bridge*, heretofore built by *Sigismund Trafford*, Esq; in order to give the Waters a more free and open Passage in and through the said Drain, the said Commissioners and their Successors shall, by and out of the Monies hereby directed to be raised for the said general Works of Draining, build another Bridge, in case the same shall be taken down at the Place aforesaid, of the same Sort of Materials, and in as handsome a Manner as the present Bridge; and, from Time to Time, support and maintain a sufficient Bridge at the Place aforesaid for Horses, Cattle, Carriages and Passengers.

Besides the Rate for general Works of Draining, the Commissioners of the fourth District may make another Rate on the Lands therein.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That over and above the said Rates and Taxes herein before authorized and directed to be raised, levied and received for the general Works of Draining herein before directed, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Commissioners for the Time being of the said fourth District or Division, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at such yearly General Meeting as aforesaid, then and there from Time to Time to assess, rate, tax and charge all and every the Owner and Owners, Occupier and Occupiers of all and singular the Lands and Grounds situate and being within the said fourth District or Division, by and with a further equal and proportionable yearly Rate, Tax or Sum of Money, at the Discretion of the Commissioners for the Time being of the said last-mentioned District or Division,

Division, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such Meeting, so that such further or additional Tax or Sum of Money do not exceed in any one Year, for the two first ^{not exceeding} Years, to be computed from the twenty- ^{2s. per Acre} fourth Day of *June* one thousand seven hun- ^{for the first} dred and fifty-four, two Shillings for every ^{two Years,} Acre of the Land or Ground within the said last-mentioned District (except as before excepted) and so that, after the Expiration of the said Term of two Years, such further or additional Tax or Sum of Money do not exceed, in any one Year, one Shilling for every ^{and 1s. per} Acre of Land or Ground within the said last- ^{Acre after.} mentioned District or Division, except as aforesaid : And also, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said respective Commissioners for the Time being of the said first and second Districts or Divisions, or the major ^{The Commis-} Part of them respectively, who shall be pre- ^{oners of the} sent at any such yearly General Meeting as ^{first and second} aforesaid, then and there, from Time to Time, ^{Districts may} severally and respectively to assess, rate, tax ^{also make a} and charge all and every the Owner and ^{like Rate,} Owners, Occupier and Occupiers of all and singular the Lands and Grounds situate and being within their several and respective Districts or Divisions (except as herein before is mentioned to be excepted) by and with a further equal and proportionable yearly Rate, Tax or Sum of Money, at the Discretion of the several and respective Commissioners for the Time being of and for the said last-mentioned Districts or Divisions, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such yearly

not exceeding
1 s. per Acre.

yearly General Meeting as aforesaid; so that such further or additional Tax, or Sum of Money, do not exceed in any one Year one Shilling for every Acre of Land or Ground within the said last mentioned two Districts or Divisions respectively (except as before excepted); which said additional Rates or Taxes, so to be severally and respectively taxed or assessed by the several and respective Commissioners of the said three last-mentioned Districts or Divisions respectively as aforesaid, shall be paid by the Owners or Occupiers of the Lands of Grounds comprized in the said three Districts or Divisions respectively, to such Person or Persons, at such Time or Times, and in such Manner and Proportion as the respective Commissioners for the Time being of the said three Districts or Divisions respectively, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such Meeting as aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, severally and respectively order, direct or appoint the same; and shall be applied and disposed of at the Discretion of the several Commissioners for each of the said three Districts respectively, or the major Part of them for the Time being, present at their respective Meetings, in or about the particular Works, Banks, Drains, Mills, Engines and other Matters and Things necessary for draining each of the said three Districts or Divisions respectively; and to or for no other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

And

And it is hereby further enacted by the Au-
thority aforesaid, That it shall and may be
lawful to and for the said Commissioners in
general, or the major Part of them for the
Time being, who shall be present at the said
yearly or any other General Meeting, to make
and widen the said Drain or Dike from *Story's
Bar* to or near *North Eau Gravel*, and, from
Time to Time, to cleanse, widen, raise,
strengthen, build, erect and support, or cause
to be cleansed, widened, raised, strengthened,
built, erected and supported, all such Rivers,
Drains, Outlets, Dams, Banks, Bridges, Mills,
Engines and other Matters and Things herein
before-mentioned, and particularly directed to
be done by them, for draining the said Lands
and Grounds, except as before excepted; and
also to take and use such Earth and Ground
near or adjoining to the said Banks, as shall be
necessary for the making, raising, strengthen-
ing and maintaining thereof, as the said Com-
missioners, or the major Part of them, who
shall be present at any such yearly or other Ge-
neral Meeting, shall think necessary and pro-
per; paying such reasonable Satisfaction to the
Person or Persons who have a Right to the
Soil through' or upon which any such River,
Drain, Outlet, Dam, Bank, Mill or Engine
shall be made or erected, and for such Earth
and Ground as shall be so taken as aforesaid,
for the Damages, he, she or they shall there-
by sustain, as shall be agreed upon between
the said Commissioners, or the major Part of
them, who shall be present at any such General
Meeting, and the Person or Persons having

The Commis-
sioners, at a
General Meet-
ing, may order
the Drain from
Story's Bar to
North Eau
Gravel, to be
cleansed, &c.
and to make
use of Earth
to strengthen
the Banks,
making Satis-
faction to the
Proprietors of
the Soil.

Ff
such

The Commis-
sioner of the
three last Di-
stricts may or-
der the Banks,
Drains and
other Works,
in their Di-
stricts, to be
repaired, &c.

such Right as aforesaid; and also, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the respective Commissioners of the said three last-mentioned Districts or Divisions, or the major Part of them for the Time being, who shall be present at their respective Meetings, from Time to Time, to cleanse, widen, make, cut, build, erect, and support, or cause to be cleansed, widened, made, cut, built, erected and supported, all such Banks, Bridges, Cuts, Drains, Dams, Outlets, Mills, Engines and other Matters and Things within their said several and respective Districts or Divisions, for draining their respective Lands and Grounds, (except as before excepted) and conveying the Waters thereof into the several Rivers or Drains herein before particularly allotted and appointed for conveying the Waters of the said three Districts respectively to Sea, as the said Commissioners respectively, or the major Part of them present at their respective Meetings, for the Time being, shall think necessary or proper, paying such reasonable Satisfaction to the Person or Persons who have a Right to the Soil through or upon which any such Cut, Drain, Dam, Bank or Outlet shall be made, or where-upon any such Engines or Mills shall be erected, for the Damages he, she or they shall thereby sustain, as shall be agreed upon between the said Commissioners respectively, or the major Part of them present for the Time being, and the Person or Persons having such Right as aforesaid; and if the said Commissioners in general, or the respective Commissioners for the three last-mentioned Districts, or
the

the major Part of them present at their respective Meetings, for the Time being, and such Person or Persons having Right as aforesaid, cannot agree concerning the amount of such Damages, then the same shall be assessed and adjudged by the Justices of the Peace, or the major Part of them, at their next or any other general Quarter-Sessions of the Peace, to be holden for the Isle of *Ely*, or County where such Damage shall be done; who are hereby authorized, impowered and required to examine into, hear and determine the same; and the Determination which shall be so made by the said Justices in their Quarter-Sessions as aforesaid, shall be final and conclusive to all Parties.

Provided always, and be it hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give the Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any of them, any Right, Power or Authority to exclude the herein before excepted Farms, Lands and Commons, or any of them, by any Dams or other Works to be made, from the Use of the several and respective publick Drains hereafter to be made use of for the general Draining of the first, second and fourth Districts respectively.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all Owners and Occupiers of Lands in the 1st, 2d, and 4th Districts, to keep the Division Dikes of a sufficient Depth, and 9 Feet wide, and well secured, &c.

Occupiers of Lands lying and being within the said first, second and fourth Districts or Divisions aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, keep, or cause to be kept, all the Outring or Division Dikes or Drains belonging to them respectively, of a sufficient Depth, and of the Breadth or Wideness of nine Feet at the least; and shall also, from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, cause the same Drains or Dikes to be well and effectually roaded, scoured and cleansed from Weeds and other Rubbish and Obstructions, and cause Bridges or Tunnels to be laid therein where necessary, for the better issuing, running and conveying away the Waters therein; and if any such Owner or Occupier shall not, within fourteen Days next after Notice and Direction to or for him or her given or left in that behalf, in Writing under the Hands of two or more of the Commissioners for the District or Division where such Lands lie respectively, cause and procure such Drains or Dikes to be roaded, scoured, cleansed, deepened and widened respectively, and such Tunnels and Bridges to be laid in pursuance of and according to such Notice and Direction; the said Commissioners for the District or Division wherein such Work is directed to be done as aforesaid, or any two or more of them, shall and may, and they are hereby authorized and required to cause the same to be done in a proper and effectual Manner, and by Warrant under their Hands and Seals, or the Hands and Seals of any two or more of them, to authorize or empower their Collector or Collectors,

or

and on Neglect thereof, Commissioners may set Men to work thereon,

or any other Person or Persons, to levy and ^{and levy the} raise the Charge and Expence of doing thereof, ^{Charges by} by Distress and Sale of such Goods and Chat- ^{Distress and} tels as shall at any Time thereafter be found on ^{Sale.} the Lands or Grounds to which such Drains or Dikes, Bridges or Tunnels, shall appertain or belong; rendering the Overplus, if any, to the Owner or Owners thereof.

And whereas the said *John Duke of Bedford* is sole and absolute Owner and Proprietor of all the Lands and Grounds comprized in the said third district or Division; now it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns, from Time to Time, to cleanse, widen, make, cut, build, erect and support, or cause to be cleansed, widened, made, cut, built, erected and supported, all such Banks, Cuts, Drains, Dams, Outlets, Mills, Engines and other Matters and Things, within, upon, and through the said third District or Division, for the Draining and Defending the same, and conveying the Waters thereof into the several Rivers or Drains herein before particularly allotted and appointed for conveying the Waters of the said third District to Sea, as the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns, shall think necessary or proper.

And whereas the said *Thomas Orby Hunter* is Lord of the Manor of *Crowland*, and Owner and Proprietor of all the Lands and Grounds comprized in the said fifth District, except about four hundred Acres which are the Property of *Thomas Orby Hunter* to cleanse and support the Drains and other Works in the fifth Division.

perty of *Beverley Butler*, Esq; and eighteen Acres of Land held by the Parson of *Crowland* for the Time being, and four Acres called *Place Yard*; but all which Lands so excepted cannot be drained according to the Intention of this Act, but through some of the Drains, Banks or Works belonging to the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*; now it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*, his Heirs and Assigns, from Time to Time, to cleanse, widen, make, cut, build, erect and support, or cause to be cleansed, widened, made, cut, built, erected and supported, all such Banks, Cuts, Drains, Dams, Outlets, Mills, Engines and other Matters and Things, within, upon and through the Lands and Grounds within the said last-mentioned District or Division contained, for the draining and defending the same, and conveying the Waters thereof into the several Rivers or Drains herein before particularly allotted and appointed for conveying the Waters of the said fifth District to Sea, as the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*, his Heirs or Assigns, shall think necessary or proper; except within, upon or through the Lands of the said *Beverley Butler*, unless the Consent of the said *Beverley Butler*, or of him, her or them to whom the freehold Inheritance, Remainder or Reversion of that his Estate, shall hereafter of Right come, belong, or appertain, be first had or obtained in Writing, for the doing any Work or Works whatsoever thereon.

Exception.

And

And further it is hereby enacted and declared, That it shall and may be lawful so and for the said *Beverley Butler*, his Heirs and Assigns, to erect and support upon the South Part of his said four hundred Acres before mentioned, one Mill for the better draining the Waters therefrom through *Dowdsdale Bank* into the said River *Old South Eau*, if the said *Beverley Butler*, his Heirs or Assigns, shall think proper.

Provided always nevertheless, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That no Cut, River, Drain or Outlet, Mill, Engine or other Device, shall be made, cut, set up, used or employed for the throwing, draining or conveying away the Waters of any particular District or Division, by Virtue of or under the Authorities aforesaid, but such only as shall lead, throw or convey the Waters of each District or Division respectively into the particular Rivers or Drains herein before particularly allotted and appointed for the conveying the Waters of each of the said five Districts or Divisions respectively, into and through *Shire Drain* to Sea. And that no Mill or Mills, Engine or Engines, or other Device, shall be worked, used or employed for the throwing of the Waters from any of the said Districts or Divisions, at any Time or Times when the Waters in the said River *Old South Eau* shall be more than four Feet above the Level of the Soil in the *North Level* near the said River, opposite to *Whaploade Common*.

Beverley Butler may erect and support a Mill for draining the Waters from the Ground belonging to him.

The Waters of particular Districts, to be conveyed into the Rivers or Drains allotted for that Purpose.

Proviso with respect to the Height of the Waters in the River of the *Old South Eau*.

Engines erected contrary to the above Proviso, may be stopped.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That if any Mill or Mills, Engine or Engines, or other Device, shall be worked, used or employed for the throwing, draining or conveying away the Waters from any particular District or Division, contrary to the Proviso herein before last contained, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any two or more of them, upon Proof thereof on the Oaths of two or more credible Witnesses (which Oaths any two or more of the said Commissioners are hereby empowered to administer) by Warrant under their Hands, to order and cause the going or working of all and every such Mill and Mills, Engine and Engines, or other Device, to be stopped and discontinued till the Waters in the said River *Old South Eau* shall be so abated as not to be four Feet above the Level aforesaid; and when and so soon as the Waters shall be so abated, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any two or more of them, and they are hereby authorized and required to give Authority, under their Hands, for the working of the Mill or Mills, Engine or Engines, that shall have been so stopped as aforesaid.

Tenants to pay the Rates,

And, to the end the said Rates and Taxes may be more easily and effectually collected and received, be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every the Tenants and Occupiers of the Lands and Grounds which shall be assessed or rated by Virtue of this Act, shall be and are hereby required and made

made liable to pay all and every such Sum and Sums of Money as shall be so assessed and rated upon the Lands and Grounds in their respective Occupations; and in case of such Payment by any Tenant or Tenants, who shall hold the Lands or Grounds by him or them occupied at a Rack-rent, such Tenant or Tenants so holding his or their Lands or Grounds at a Rack-rent, shall be at Liberty, and are hereby impowered to deduct and retain out of his or their Rent all such Rates, Taxes or Sums of Money as they shall so respectively pay as aforesaid; and the several and respective Landlords or Owners of such Lands or Grounds, are hereby required to allow such Deductions and Payments upon the Receipt of the Residue of their Rents; and all and every Tenant and Tenants so holding at a Rack-rent, and paying such Assessment or Rate, shall be acquitted and discharged from and against his, her or their Landlord or Landlords, of and from so much Money as the Assessments or Rates by him or them so paid as aforesaid shall amount unto, in as full and ample Manner, as if the same had been actually paid to his, her or their Landlord or Landlords.

and such as are
at Rack-rent.
may deduct
the same.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That no Lessee or Tenant of any Lands or Grounds charged with the said Taxes, who shall hold the same by virtue of, or under any Lease from any Bishop or Collegiate Church or College, or any Ecclesiastical Corporation, Sole or Aggregate, or the Trustees of the Charity of *Peterborough*, or other beneficial Lease

The Deducti-
on allowed to
Tenants un-
der Bishops
Leases, &c.

what-

whatsoever, shall be intitled to deduct the Taxes chargeable by this Act out of the Rent reserved and payable by any such Lease to his, her or their Landlord or Landlords; but the said Taxes shall be charged upon, borne and paid by the Lessees or Tenants so holding such Lands or Grounds under any such Lease as aforesaid; any thing herein before contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Rates may be
levied by Di-
stresses and Sale.

AND be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall refuse or neglect to pay the respective Rates, Taxes or Sums of Money, which shall be taxed, charged or assessed upon him, her or them, or the Lands or Grounds in his, her or their Possession or Occupation, by Virtue of and under the Powers and Authorities of this Act, within twenty-one Days next after the same shall become due and payable, and Demand made thereof by the Collector or Collectors appointed to receive the same, at the Lands or Grounds charged therewith, or the Dwelling-house of the Tenant or Occupier thereof, it shall and may be lawful to and for such Collector or Collectors, or for any other Person or Persons, by Virtue of any Warrant or Precept, under the Hands and Seals of any five or more of the said Commissioners (which said Warrant or Precept such Commissioners, or any five or more of them, are hereby empowered and required, from Time to Time, to make, as Occasion shall require) to enter into and upon the Lands or Grounds so rated and taxed as aforesaid, in Possession of such Person or Persons as shall so make Default in Payment

as aforesaid, and all Messuages or Tenements thereupon standing, or thereunto belonging, with the Appurtenances, and to levy the Sum or Sums of Money by him, her or them payable for such Rate or Tax, by Distress of the Goods and Chattels which shall be found on the Premises so charged with any such Rate or Tax in Arrear as aforesaid; and in case no sufficient Distress can be found on the Premises, it shall and may be lawful to and for such Collector or Collectors, or other Person or Persons, by Virtue of such Warrant or Precept as aforesaid, to levy all Arrears of the said Taxes, by Distress of the Goods and Chattles of the Person or Persons so making Default in Payment as aforesaid, which shall be found in any other Place within the Kingdom of *Great Britain*, and the Goods and Chattles so distrained to impound on the Premises, or take, lead, drive, carry away and keep for the Space of five Days, at the Costs and Charges of the Owner or Owners thereof, leaving at such Messuage or Tenement, Grounds or Premises, Notice in Writing of the Cause of such Distress; and if the Owner or Owners of the Goods and Chattles so distrained shall not pay the Sum or Sums of Money so assessed or rated, and in Arrear as aforesaid, with all Charges attending such Distress, or replevy the Goods and Chattles so distrained, with sufficient Sureties to be given to the Sheriff of the County, or High Bailiff of the Isle of *Ely*, according to the Laws now in Being for Distresses in Cases of Non-payment of Rent within

Distress may within five Days next after such Distress made,
be sold within and Notice thereof given as aforesaid, the Per-
5 Days. son or Persons so distraining shall and may,

with the Sheriff or Under-sheriff of the County, Bailiff of the Isle of *Ely*, or Constable or Headborough of the Parish where such Distress shall be made (who are hereby required to assist therein), cause the Goods and Chattles so distrained to be appraised by two or more indifferent Persons, to be sworn by such Sheriff, Under-sheriff, Bailiff, Constable or Headborough (who are hereby empowered to administer such Oath) to appraise the same according to the best of their Judgment; and after such Appraisement, it shall and may be lawful to and for such Collector or Collectors, or other Person or Persons making such Distress, to sell the Goods and Chattles so distrained for the best Price that can be got for the same, for and towards Satisfaction of the Monies for which such Distress shall be so made, and the Charges of taking, keeping, appraising and selling the Goods and Chattles so distrained, leaving the Overplus, if any, in the Hands of such Sheriff, Under-sheriff, Bailiff, Constable or Headborough, for the Owners Use.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That in case any of the said Lands and Grounds shall, at any Time hereafter, be untenanted or unoccupied, so that no sufficient distress can be found for levying the said Rates and Taxes, then the Lands and Grounds chargeable therewith, shall always remain a Security for Payment thereof; and all Goods and Chattles, which shall at any Time

If the Lands shall be untenanted, and no Distress can be had, the Lands to remain as a Security for the Rates.

Time thereafter be found thereon, shall and may be distrained, impounded, kept, appraised and sold in manner aforesaid, until all Arrears of the said Rates and Taxes, and the Charges of such Distress, shall be fully paid and satisfied.

And forasmuch as the Monies so to be yearly rated, levied and collected in Pursuance of this Act, will not at present be sufficient for answering the Charge and Expence of the said general Works of draining and preserving the said Lands and Grounds, and other the Purposes aforesaid; and for defraying the reasonable Charges in and about the passing this Act; it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Owners or Occupiers of the said Lands and Grounds comprized within the said several and respective Districts or Divisions, or any of them, or for any other Person or Persons, to advance and pay to the said Commissioners, or their Treasurer for the Time being, any Sum or Sums of Money, not exceeding in the whole the Sum of fourteen thousand Pounds, for the absolute Purchase of any certain Annuity or Annuities, to be paid and payable during the Term of thirty Years, or for the Life of any single Person, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them for the Time being, who shall be present at their said yearly or any other General Meeting, shall, from Time to Time, think fit; to commence respectively from the respective Times such Money shall be paid or advanced, and to be computed at such Rate or Rates as shall

The Sum of 14000 l. may be raised by Annuities, to answer the immediate Expences of draining the Lands.

Annuities for
30 Years not
to exceed 6l.
and for a sin-
gle Life 7l.
per Cent.

shall be agreed on by the said Commissioners for the Time being, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at such yearly or any other General Meeting as aforesaid, with the Person or Persons paying or advancing such Money, so as the Rate or Rates so to be agreed on for any such Annuity or Annuities for thirty Years, do not exceed six Pounds *per Annum* for any Sum of one hundred Pounds, and proportionably for any greater or less Sum; and so as the Rate or Rates so to be agreed on for any such Annuity or Annuities for the single Life of any one Person do not exceed seven Pounds *per Centum per Annum*, and proportionably for any greater or less Sum; and the Purchase-money for every such Annuity, at the Rate aforesaid, is hereby appointed to be paid to the said Commissioners, or their Treasurer for the Time being, at such Times also as shall for that Purpose be agreed on by and between the said Parties; all which Annuities shall be paid and payable to the Purchasers of the same, their Executors, Administrators or Assigns, by even and equal half-yearly Portions; the first Payment thereof to be due at the End of six Calendar Months from the Time of paying the Purchase-money for the same.

Annuities to
be charged on
the Rates,

And, to the Intent the said Annuities may be effectually secured, and duly and regularly paid, it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any ten or more of them, for the Time being, may and shall, at any of the said General Meetings, by proper Instruments
or

or Deeds, under their respective Hands and Seals, grant such Annuities, to be issuing out of the said yearly Rates or Taxes, or any Part or Parts thereof, for such principal Sums as shall be so advanced as aforesaid (the Charge of such Grants to be borne and paid out of the said Taxes); and all such Annuities shall be ^{and to be Tax-} free and exempt from all Parliamentary and free. other Taxes, Duties and Assessments whatsoever.

Provided nevertheless, and it is hereby ^{If it shall be} further enacted, That if the said Commis- ^{thought more} sioners, or the major Part of them, for the ^{advisable,} Time being, who shall be present at any such ^{Commissioners} General Meeting as aforesaid, shall, instead of ^{may borrow} granting such Annuities as aforesaid, judge it ^{Money at an} more advisable to borrow Money for the Pur- ^{Interest, not} poses aforesaid, repayable with Interest, at Times ^{to exceed 5 l.} to be agreed on; or shall think it proper to grant ^{per Cent.} Annuities in Part, and borrow Money in other Part, for the Purposes aforesaid, then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, for the Time being, who shall be present at any such General Meeting as aforesaid, to borrow, take up and receive any Sum or Sums of Money that they shall think proper, and to mortgage, charge, assign and convey or incur the said Rates or Taxes, so to be assessed and levied for the said general Works of draining as aforesaid, or any Part or Parts thereof, with and for the Repayment of the Sums so borrowed, with such Interest, at such Times, and with such Provisoes, and Conditions of Redemption, as shall be agreed on; so, nevertheless, that the principal Money so to be borrowed.

ed, together with the Money received for the Purchase of any Annuities, shall never exceed in the whole the principal Sum of fourteen thousand Pounds, and so as the Interest for the Monies, so to be borrowed by way of Mortgage as aforesaid, do not exceed the Rate of five Pounds *per Centum per Annum*.

Monies borrowed to be applied in the same Manner as the Rates.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That all and every Sum and Sums of Money which shall be raised, borrowed or received, by the said Commissioners, or any of them, or their Treasurer or Treasurers, for the Purchase of any such Annuity or Annuities, or by way of Loan or Mortgage as aforesaid, shall be applied and disposed of in such and the same Manner, as the Rates and Taxes to be assessed and levied by Virtue of and under the Authority of this Act, for the said general Works of Draining, are or ought to have been applied and disposed of, in case no such Annuity had been granted, and no such Mortgage made.

The Rates to be applied in the first Place, in Payment of Annuities, and Mortgages, and the Interest thereof.

And it is hereby further enacted and declared, That the Rates, Taxes and Sums of Money hereby enacted to be paid for the said general Works of Draining, by the Owners or Occupiers of the Lands, Grounds and Premises aforesaid, or such Part or Parts thereof, as shall be particularly charged or incumbered as aforesaid, shall be charged and chargeable, in the first Place, with and for the Payment of such Annuities, and all Arrears thereof, and of such Mortgage-monies, and the Interest thereof, from Time to Time; and shall vest in the respective Annuitants and Mortgagees, upon

upon Default of Payment of such Annuities, and Mortgage-monies, and Interest, until the same shall be fully paid and satisfied, together with the Costs and Charges occasioned by the Non-payment of the same; and the said Annuityants and Mortgagees respectively, their respective Executors, Administrators and Assigns, shall have the same Power, Rights and Privileges, of raising and recovering the Taxes, and Sums of Money, payable by the Owners or Occupiers of the said Lands, Grounds and Premises aforesaid, for and in respect of the said Annuities, and Mortgage-monies, and Interest, in case of Default of Payment thereof, as the said Commissioners or their Collectors could have had, in case the said Annuities and Mortgage-monies had been regularly and fully paid and satisfied.

And it is hereby further enacted, That the Annuities said Annuities shall be deemed personal Estates; deemed personal Estates, and that the same Annuities, and the said Mortgages, and Mortgage-monies, shall and they and the Mortgages may be assignable or transferrable by Indorsement on the original Grant or Security thereof, or otherwise, without Stamp, to any Person or Persons whatsoever; and the Person or Persons to whom such Transfer or Assignment shall be made, from and after the Time that the same is entered in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose, as herein after is directed (which Entry is hereby required to be made upon request, and producing such Assignment, and paying two Shillings and six Pence for every such Entry) shall be well and

sufficiently intituled to such Annuity or Annuities, Mortgage Monies, and Interest, and all the Monies due and to grow due thereon.

Assignees may assign again toties quoties. And it is hereby further enacted, That such Assignee or Assignees, and every after Assignee and Assignees, shall and may in like manner, by Indorsement or otherwise, without Stamp, assign and make over such Annuity or Annuities, Mortgage or Mortgages, and Mortgage-monies, so assigned as aforesaid, and so *toties quoties*, as Occasion shall require; every such Assignment being entered in such Book as aforesaid.

Books to be provided for entering the Sums borrowed, &c. the Parties and Dates. And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners shall cause proper Books to be made, and kept by their Clerk or Clerks, Treasurer or Treasurers, for the Time being, for the registering all Sums of Money which shall be paid and advanced for the purchasing such Annuities, or by Way of Loan or Mortgage as aforesaid; wherein the said Commissioners shall, from Time to Time, cause due and regular Entries to be made of the Sums paid or advanced, the Times when paid, and the Names of the Persons paying the same, and the Annuities or Rates of Interest payable for or in respect thereof; and also the Dates of all Assignments thereof, and the Persons Names to whom assigned; and also the Times when any such Annuity shall determine, or any such principal Sum shall be paid off and discharged.

Provided

Provided always, and it is hereby further Forty Com-
 enacted and declared, That no Sum or Sums missioners to
 of Money whatsoever shall be agreed for, ta- be present and
 ken up, or borrowed, for the Purchase of any consenting at
 such Annuity, or by way of Loan or Mort- the borrowing
 gage as aforesaid, by the said Commissioners at of Money,
 any such Meeting as aforesaid, unless forty &c.
 Commissioners at least shall be then and there
 present, and consenting and agreeing thereto;
 and that no further or greater Sum or Sums
 of Money shall be so agreed for, taken up, or
 borrowed, by the said Commissioners, or any
 of them, at any one Meeting, than the Sum
 of four thousand Pounds in the whole.

Provided always, and it is hereby further When the
 enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, Annuities shall
 That when and so soon as all the Annuities which be determined
 shall be granted under the Powers and Autho- the Rates may
 rities aforesaid, shall be determined, and all be reduced.
 Arrears thereof paid, and all the Monies
 which shall be borrowed under the Powers
 aforesaid, and all Interest due for the same,
 shall be paid off and satisfied, it shall and may
 be lawful to and for the said Commissioners
 in general, or the major Part of them, who
 shall be present at their said yearly General
 Meeting, on the said first *Monday* in *July*, and
 they are hereby authorized and impowered,
 from Time to Time, to lessen and reduce the
 Rates and Taxes which shall be rated or as-
 sessed for the said general Works of Draining,
 in pursuance of this Act, to such Sum or Sums
 of Money, and in such Manner, as they, or
 the major Part of them, who shall be present
 at such yearly General Meeting, shall, from

Time to Time, think proper; any thing herein before-mentioned to the contrary notwithstanding.

Adjournments
and Meetings
of Commis-
sioners.

And be it further enacted by the Authority afore-
said, That the said Commissioners in ge-
neral for the Time being, or the major Part of
them, who shall be present at any such yearly
or other General Meeting, shall and may from
Time to Time adjourn themselves to meet at
such other Time or Times, at the same Place,
as they, or the major Part of them present,
shall think fit; and the said Commissioners
also shall and may meet at any other Time, for
putting this Act in Execution, as often as shall
be necessary, or required by any five or more
of the said Commissioners; fourteen Days No-
tice being given of every such Meeting in the
Cambridge and *Stamford* weekly News-papers,
so long as any such News-papers shall continue
to be published, and in some one or more of
the Evening Posts published in *London*.

Commissioners
to give Orders
for Manage-
ment of the
Works,

And be it further enacted and declared by
the Authority afore-
said, That the said Com-
missioners in general, or the major Part of
them, who shall be present at the said yearly
Meeting on the said first *Monday* in *July*, or at
any other General Meeting to be had by Ad-
journment, or otherwise, in pursuance of the
Power afore-
said, are hereby impowered to
make and give such Rules, Orders and Direc-
tions, for the better and more orderly Manage-
ment of the general Works of Draining, herein
before particularly directed, and every Thing
relating thereto; and to make and enter into
such Contracts for the Performance of any such
Work

and enter into
Contracts.

Work or Works, and for supplying Materials for the same, as they, or the major Part of them present, in their Discretions shall think proper; and also at any such yearly General Meeting, on the said first *Monday* in *July*, to name and appoint a Secretary or Clerk, and one or more Treasurer or Treasurers, and one or more Surveyor or Surveyors of their Works, and one or more Collector or Collectors, Receiver or Receivers, of the said Rates and Taxes, an Officer to be resident at *Cloves Croft* herein after-mentioned, and such other proper Officer or Officers as they shall think needful for the taking care of such Works, and for collecting, receiving and safe keeping the Rates and Taxes so to be assessed and levied as aforesaid; and to allow and appoint, to be paid to such Officers out of the said Rates and Taxes, such yearly or other Wages, Salaries and Rewards for their Troubles and Pains in their respective Offices, as the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any such yearly General Meeting, shall think reasonable and proper; and also for the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any General Meeting to be had by Adjournment, or otherwise, from Time to Time, to remove and displace all or any of the said Officers, and appoint others in their Places or Steads, as often as they shall see Cause: And all and every such Treasurer or Treasurers, and Collector or Collector, Receiver or Receivers, so to be appointed as aforesaid, before they shall act in the Execution of their several Offices, shall

and appoint
Officers with
Salaries;

and may re-
move them.

give such Security to the said Commissioners, or any five or more of them, in Trust for the Purposes aforesaid, for the due Execution of their respective Offices and Trusts, as the Commissioners, or the major Part of them who shall be present at any such General Meeting, shall in their Discretions think fit; so that the Security to be given by every such Treasurer be not for less than one thousand Pounds for himself, with two sufficient Sureties, in the Penalty of five hundred Pounds each; and so that the Security to be given by every such Collector or Receiver be not for less than three hundred Pounds for himself, with two sufficient Sureties, in the Penalty of one hundred Pounds each.

Officers to
give Security.

Accounts to be
kept of the As-
sessments, Re-
ceipts and Ex-
penditures.

And to the End that it may appear, from Time to Time, what Money hath been raised, levied and collected for the said general Works of Draining by Virtue of this Act, and how the same hath been applied; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners appointed to put this Act in Execution shall cause one more fair and regular Book or Books of Assessment of the said Rates and Taxes, so to be assessed for the said general Works of Draining, and one or more fair and regular Book or Books of Receipts of the Money which shall arise and be received therefrom, and of the Disbursements thereof, to be provided and kept by their Treasurer or Treasurers, Collectors or other Officers; wherein shall be fairly and regularly entered all and every Sum and Sums of Money that

that shall be assessed, collected or received, by virtue of or under the Authority of this Act; and how, when, to whom and for what the same, or any Part thereof, has been paid, applied or disposed of.

And, to the End that the said Accounts may be fairly examined; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That once in every Year, on the Day herein before appointed for the said yearly general Meeting, the Treasurer or Treasurers, Collector or Collectors, or Receiver or Receivers for the Time being, of the said Rates and Sums of Money so to be raised as aforesaid, for the said general Works of Draining, shall attend and deliver to the said Commissioners, at their said yearly General Meeting, true Copies of their several Books of Account of the Receipts and Disbursements of all such Sums of Money as shall have been collected or received by them respectively, by Virtue of this Act, from the first *Monday* in *July* then next before to that Time; and the said Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at such yearly General Meeting, shall then and there yearly elect and choose, nominate and appoint, a Committee of ten at least of the said Commissioners, whereof two at least shall be out of each of the said five Districts, to examine, settle and adjust the said Accounts, and report their Opinion thereof to the said Commissioners, at any subsequent General Meeting; and the Treasurer or Treasurers, and Collector or Collectors, or Receiver or Receivers, of the said Rates and Sums of Money so to be raised as aforesaid,

Copies of the Accounts to be delivered to the Commissioners at their yearly General Meeting;

Committee to be appointed to examine, settle and report the same.

said for the said general Works of Draining, are hereby required to attend the Committee so to be appointed, or any five or more of them, with their several Books of Account of the Receipts and Disbursements aforesaid, and all Vouchers for the same, at such Times and Places as the said Committee, or any five or more of them shall appoint; and such Accounts and Vouchers being considered and examined by such Committee, and Oath being made of the Truth thereof by such Treasurer or Treasurers, Collector or Collectors, Receiver or Receivers respectively (which Oath any two of the said Committee are hereby empowered to administer) shall be certified and reported by such Committee or any five or more of them, with their Opinion thereof, to the said Commissioners, at any subsequent General Meeting; and the Commissioners, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at any such General Meeting, are hereby empowered to allow and pass such Accounts, or such Part or Parts of the same as they shall see just and reasonable; and all such Account or Accounts of such Part or Parts of them, as shall be so allowed and passed by the said Commissioners, shall be fairly entered in two or more several Sets of Books to be kept for that Purpose; one Set whereof shall be kept with the said Commissioners, or their Treasurer, for the Time being; and another Set thereof in a Chest to be kept in the *Aldry House* in *Thorney* aforesaid, under the Care of the Steward of his Grace the Duke of *Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns, for the Time being: And the said Books shall and may be inspected

Copies of the
Accounts pass-
ed, to be enter-
ed in two or
more Sets of
Books, &c.

inspected and perused, and Extracts taken therefrom, at any Time, at seasonable Hours, by and at the Request of any of the Owners or Proprietors of any Part of the said Lands and Grounds which shall have been rated or taxed in Pursuance of this Act, paying one Shilling for every such Inspection.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Collector and Collectors of the said Rates and Taxes, so as aforesaid to be assessed for the said general Works of Draining, shall, from Time to Time, pay over all and every Sum and Sums of Money which he and they shall, from Time to Time, collect and receive, for or on account thereof, unto such Person or Persons as shall be appointed Treasurer or Treasurers to the said Commissioners for the Time being, at least twice in every Year, in such manner as the said Commissioners for the Time being, or the major Part of them that shall be present at any General Meeting, shall order, direct and appoint.

And it is hereby further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any such Collector or Collectors, Treasurer or Treasurers, shall neglect or refuse to account for any Sum of Money by him or them collected or received in Pursuance of this Act, to the said Commissioners, or any ten or more of them, or to pay over the Balance which shall appear to be remaining on account thereof, in his or their Hands, to such Person or Persons as the said Commissioners, or any ten or more of them, shall, by Writing under their Hands, authorise the Collector or Treasurers refusing to account or pay over the Monies in their Hands, to be committed.

authorize and impower to receive the same; then, and in such Case, it shall and may be lawful to and for any two or more Justices of the Peace of and for the said Counties of *Nor-thampton, Lincoln and Cambridge*, and the Isle of *Ely*, respectively, at a Special Sessions to be held for the same, to inquire of and concerning such Neglects, Refusals, Non-payments and Offences; and if any such Collector or Treasurer shall be convicted by the said Justices of any such Neglect, Refusal, Non-payment or Offences, then the said Justices shall, upon such Conviction, commit such Collector or Treasurer to the Common Gaol of the said Counties, or Isle, respectively, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until he or they shall have made a full, true and perfect Account and Payment as aforesaid.

Meetings and
Adjournments
of the Com-
missioners for
the 1st, 2d,
and 4th Di-
stricts.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the several and respective Commissioners for the said first, second and fourth Districts or Divisions, or the major Part of them, who shall be present at the said yearly General Meeting, or at any other Meeting to be had by the Commissioners of the said three last-mentioned Districts respectively, shall and may, from Time to Time, adjourn themselves to meet at such other Time and Times, and Place, within or near their respective Districts, as they, or the major Part of them present, shall think fit; and the Commissioners for the said three last-mentioned Districts shall also and may, severally and respectively, meet at any other Time and Place, within or near their respective Districts, for putting in Execu-
tion

tion the Powers hereby vested in them respectively, within their said several and respective Districts, as often as shall be necessary, or required by any two or more of the said Commissioners respectively, seven Days Notice in Writing being given of every such Meeting, at the respective Places herein after appointed for the Election of the Commissioners for the said three last-mentioned Districts or Divisions respectively; and the several and respective Commissioners for the said three last-mentioned Districts or Divisions, or the major Part of them respectively, who shall be present at any such Meeting as aforesaid, are hereby im-
 powered to audit and settle their respective Accounts, and to make and give such Rules, Orders and Directions, for the better and more orderly Management of the Money to be raised by the further or additional Taxes herein before authorized to be raised within the said three Districts respectively, and to name and appoint such Collectors and other Officers for collecting and keeping the same, and taking care of their particular and respective Works, as the said Commissioners respectively, or the major Part of them present, shall in their Discretions think fit.

And for the preventing the damming up, stopping, throwing down, burning, demolishing, destroying or damaging any of the Rivers, Drains, Watercourses, Banks, Mills, Engines, Flood-gates, Sluices, Doors, Dams, Bridges, or other Works already made or erected for or towards draining the Lands and Grounds contained within the said several Districts

Their Accounts to be audited; and Orders made for the Application of the additional Taxes, and Officers to be appointed.

Persons convicted of maliciously destroying or damaging any of the Works, to suffer Death;

stricts and Divisions, or any of them, or hereafter to be made, erected, supported or maintained for the Purposes aforesaid, by Virtue of or under the Powers and Authorities of this Act; it is hereby enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall at any Time hereafter maliciously cut, break down, burn, demolish or destroy any Bank, Mill, Engine, Flood-gate or Sluice already made or erected, or which shall at any Time hereafter be making or erecting, or made or erected, supported or maintained for answering the Purposes aforesaid, every Person or Persons so offending, being thereof convicted, shall be guilty of Felony, and shall suffer Death as Felons, without Benefit of Clergy:

and convicted
of stopping up,
&c. any River
or Drain,

And if any Person or Persons shall at any Time hereafter maliciously stop, dam up, demolish, damage or destroy any River, Drain, Watercourse, Door, Dam, Bridge, or other Work or Works already made or erected, or which shall at any Time hereafter be making or erecting, or made or erected, supported or maintained for answering the Purposes aforesaid, every Person or Persons so offending, being thereof convicted before any two or more Justices of the Peace for the Counties and Isle aforesaid, or either of them, who are hereby required to hear and determine the same, on the Oath of two or more credible

to forfeit 100l.

Witnesses, shall forfeit the Sum of one hundred Pounds to the said Commissioners, their Successors, Heirs or Assigns, to be applied for the respective Purposes to which the said Rates and Taxes are thereby directed to be respectively

any applied; and in Default of Payment thereof, the Person or Persons so offending be sent to the House of Correction of the County or Isle where such Offence shall be committed, there to be kept to hard Labour such Time as such Justices shall order and direct, not exceeding six Months.

Provided always; and it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the Commissioners for the Time being, for setting this Act in Execution, shall at all times hereafter make, support and maintain the Banks of *Shire Drain* aforesaid, in as good and substantial Plight and Condition as the best part of the Banks of the said River *Old South Eau*, within the North Level, now are, or at any Time hereafter shall be made, supported and maintained; and shall also at all Times hereafter make, support and maintain the Sluice, Flood-gates and Doors at *Clows Cross* aforesaid, of such sufficient Strength and Condition as to stop, resist and uphold the Land-waters, in case any Breach or Overflowing of the Banks of *Shire Drain* aforesaid shall at any Time happen, by Means of such Land-waters.

Commis
to mainte
Banks o
Shire D

and the
at Clows

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That if at any Time hereafter any Breach or Overflowing of the Banks of *Shire Drain* aforesaid shall happen by Means of the Land-waters running out of and off the North Level aforesaid into *Shire Drain* aforesaid; then and in such Case, upon Notice given to an Officer, to be appointed by the said Commissioners for that

In case
Banks of
Drain sh
be broke
overflow

that Purpose, and to be resident at the *Clow* afore-
said, by any Owner or Proprietor of
Lands within the hundred of *Wisbich* in the
said Isle of *Ely* and County of *Cambridge*, or
within *South Holland* in the County of *Lincoln*,
the Flood-gates or Doors of *Clows Crofs* afore-
said shall be immediately shut down by such
the Flood- Officer; and in case of such Officer's Absence
gates at Clows from his said Place of Residence, and in De-
Crofs to be fault of such Officer's shutting down the said
shut down. Flood-gates or Doors immediately after such
Notice, it shall and may be lawful to and for
such Owner or Proprietor, who shall so give
Notice as afore-
said, to shut down the same, or
cause the same to be shut down; and the said
Doors or Flood-gates, when so shut down, shall
continue shut until such Breach of Bank or
Overflowing shall be repaired, stopped or dis-
continue; any Power or Powers now vested in
any Person or Persons, Body Corporate or Bo-
dies Corporate, to the contrary thereof in any
wise notwithstanding.

Provided also, and it is hereby further
Commissioners enacted and declared by the Authority afore-
not to exercise said, That nothing herein contained shall ex-
any other Pow- tend, or be construed to extend, to give any
er over Shire further or greater Power to the Commissioners
Drain or Old for putting this Act into Execution, or any of
South Eau Ri- them, in or over *Shire Drain* afore-
ver, than the said River *Old South Eau*, or the Lands and
Conservators Grounds adjoining thereto, or for the making
have a Right or erecting any Works in or about the same, or
to use. other or larger Power whatsoever over the said
Drain (except as afore-
said) than the said Go-
vernor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Com-
pany

pany of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens now lawfully may have and use; or to take away from any Person or Persons whatsoever any Right or Rights they now lawfully may have in and over the said Drains, or either of them; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens aforesaid, shall not, at any Time hereafter, have, use or exercise any Power, Jurisdiction or Authority whatsoever, over the Commissioners named and appointed, and to be named and appointed, elected and chosen for putting this Act in Execution; or in or over any Part of the Lands and Grounds comprized in any of the said several Districts or Divisions, or in or over any River, Drain, Bank, Sluice, Engine or other Work, already made, or hereafter to be made, by Virtue of and under the Authority of this Act, within any of the said several Districts, for the Purposes herein before-mentioned, other than and except the Works herein before placed under the particular Care, Management and Direction of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, and except the Powers and Authorities vested in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, by the said Acts of the fifteenth and twentieth Years of King *Charles* the Second, or either of them, for levying, recovering and receiving the Taxes chargeable
by

Conservators not to exercise any Power over the Commissioners, or the Works.
other than over the Works put under their particular Care.

by Virtue of the said Acts of Parliament, or one of them, herein before directed to be received and applied by the said Corporation, in Manner herein before-mentioned.

Limitation of
Commissioners
Power over
Dowdsale
Bank;

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give to the said Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any of them, any Power or Authority in or over the Bank called *Dowdsale Bank* (being that Part of the Bank herein before described to be the North East and North Bank of the River *Old South Eau*, which reaches from *Crowland Town* to *Dowdsale*) other than and except the Power hereby given to the said Commissioners of raising and strengthening the said Bank, from Time to Time, according to the Dimensions prescribed by this Act; but that, subject to the aforesaid Power of raising and strengthening the said Bank, the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*, his Heirs and Assigns, shall continue in the Possession, Usage and Disposal of the said Bank called *Dowdsale Bank*, according to the full Intent and Meaning of the Proviso made in that Behalf in the said Act of Parliament made and passed in the fifteenth Year of King *Charles* the Second, in as full and ample Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had never been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Provided

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give to the said Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any of them, any Power or Authority in or over such Part of the South Bank of the said River *Old South Eau* as is included in the said third District or Division, other than and except the Power hereby given to the said Commissioners of raising and strengthening the said Bank, from Time to Time, according to the Dimensions prescribed by this Act; but that, subject to the aforesaid Power of raising and strengthening the said Bank, the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs and Assigns, shall continue in the Possession, Usage and Disposal of such Part of the said South Bank as is included in the said third District or Division, in as full and ample Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had never been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to give to the said Commissioners for putting this Act into Execution, or any of them, any Power or Authority in or over such Part of the South-west Bank of the said River *Old South Eau*, otherwise the ancient Branch of the *Nene*, as is included in the said first District or Division, and over such Part of the South-west Bank of the ancient Branch of the *Nene* as is included in the first District.

other than and except the Power hereby given to the said Commissioners of raising and strengthening the said Bank, from Time to Time, according to the Dimensions prescribed by this Act; but that, subject to the aforesaid Power of raising and strengthening the said Bank, the said *Henry* Earl of *Lincoln*, his Heirs and Assigns, shall continue in the Possession, Usage and Disposal of such Part of the said South-west Bank as is included in the said first District or Division, in as full and ample Manner, to all Intents and Purposes, as if this Act had never been made; any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

Perpetual and
annual elective
Commissioners
for the first
District.

And, for supplying and continuing a sufficient Number of Commissioners for putting this Act in Execution; be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Right Honourable *Brownlow* Earl of *Exeter*, his Heirs and Assigns, being Owners of the Estate the said Earl is now seized of within the said first District, and the Right Honourable *Henry* Earl of *Lincoln*, his Heirs or Assigns, being Owner or Owners of *Highborough Fen* and *Lowborough Fen*, or his or their lawful Attorney, shall always be and continue Commissioners of and for the said first District or Division; and that so many other Commissioners of and for the said first District shall be named and appointed annually by the said *Henry* Earl of *Lincoln*, his Heirs or Assigns, and certified under his or their Hand or Hands to the said Commissioners, at their yearly General Meeting aforesaid, as shall, together with the said
Earl,

Earl, his Heirs or Assigns, or his or their Attorney, make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land charged with the said Taxes, which the said Earl of *Lincoln*, his Heirs or Assigns, shall for the Time being be seized and possessed of in his or their own Right, within the said first District; and that one other Commissioner of and for the said first District or Division, shall be named and appointed annually by the Lord or Lady of the Manor of *Crowland* for the Time being, and certified under his or her Hand to the said Commissioners at their yearly General Meeting aforesaid; and that every Person, who shall for the Time being be seized or possessed of five hundred Acres of Land, or upwards, within the said first District, and paying the said Taxes for the same, in his own Right, shall, during the Time he shall be so seized or possessed, be a Commissioner himself, or name and appoint some other Person to be a Commissioner in his Stead; and shall also name and appoint so many other Persons for Commissioners, as shall make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land he shall be so seized or possessed of for the Time being; and that so many other Commissioners of and for the said first District, shall be yearly chosen on the last *Monday* in *June* in every Year, out of the Proprietors or Occupiers of Lands within the said District, at the Town of *Eye*, by such Persons as shall for the Time being be seized or possessed of twenty Acres of Land within the said District, paying the

Taxes charged by this Act, in their own Rights for the same, as together with the said Earl of *Lincoln*, his Heirs or Assigns, or his or their Attorney, and the said other Commissioners, in Right of Tenure as aforesaid; and the Commissioners so to be named and appointed as aforesaid, shall make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land charged with the said Taxes within the said first District, over and above the said Earl of *Exeter*, his Heirs or Assigns; and the Persons so elected shall be certified by the Electors, or the major Part of them, to the said Commissioners at their yearly General Meeting, as aforesaid; that the Right Honourable *George William* Earl of *Coventry*, his Heirs or Assigns, being Owners of the Lands the said Earl is now seized of in *Basinghall Moor*, or a Person to be yearly named and appointed by him or them, shall always be a Commissioner for the said second District or Division; and that one other Commissioner of and for the said Second District shall be yearly named and appointed by the Lord or Lords of the Manor of *Peterborough* for the Time being: And that every Person who shall, for the Time being, be seized or possessed of five hundred Acres of Land or upwards, within the said second District, and paying the said Taxes for the same, in his own Right, shall, during the Time he shall be so seized or possessed, be a Commissioner himself, or name and appoint some other Person to be a Commissioner in his Stead; and shall also name and appoint so many other Persons for Commissioners, as shall make one Commissioner

For the second
Division.

for every five hundred Acres of Land
 he shall be so seized or possessed of for the
 Time being; and that so many other Com-
 missioners of and for the said second District
 or Division shall be annually chosen upon the
 said last *Monday in June* in every Year, at *The*
Dog in the Doublet Inn upon the North Bank,
 so long as the same shall continue an Inn or
 Publick House, and afterwards at such other
 Place as the Proprietors of Lands in the said
 District shall appoint, out of the Proprietors
 or Occupiers of Lands within the said District,
 by such Persons as shall, for the Time being,
 be seized or possessed of twenty Acres of Land
 in that District, paying the Taxes to be
 charged by this Act, in their own Rights, for
 the same, as shall make one Commissioner for
 every five hundred Acres of Land charged
 with the said Taxes within the said second Di-
 strict; all which Commissioners for the said
 second District shall be yearly certified to the
 said Commissioners, at their yearly General
 Meeting, in manner aforesaid; that the said For the third
John Duke of Bedford his Heirs or Assigns, District.
 or his or their lawful Attorney, shall be and
 continue a Commissioner of and for the said
 third District, so long as he or they shall be
 seized or possessed of five hundred Acres of
 Land, in his or their own Right, charged
 with the said Taxes within the same; and that
 so many other Commissioners of and for the
 said third District shall be annually named and
 appointed by the said *John Duke of Bedford*,
 his Heirs or Assigns, and certified under his or
their

For the fourth
District.

their Hand or Hands to the said Commissioners, at their yearly General Meeting aforesaid, as shall, together with the said *John Duke of Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns, or his or their Attorney, make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land charged with the said Taxes within the said third District or Division; that every Person who shall for the Time being be seized in Possession of five hundred Acres of Land, or upwards, within the said fourth District or Division, and paying Taxes for the same, in his or their own Right, shall be a Commissioner himself for the said fourth District, during the Time he shall be so seized or possessed, or name and appoint some other Person to be a Commissioner in his Stead; and shall also name and appoint so many other Persons for Commissioners, as shall make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land he shall be so seized or possessed of for the Time being; and that so many more Persons, being Owners or Occupiers of Lands in the said fourth District, shall be yearly chosen for Commissioners on the said last *Monday in June*, at or near *Cloues Cross*, by such Persons as shall for the Time being be seized or possessed of twenty Acres of Land in the said District, paying the Taxes to be charged by this Act, in their own Rights, for the same, and certified to the said Commissioners, at their yearly General Meeting, in Manner aforesaid, as shall make in the whole one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land charged with the said Taxes

Taxes within the said fourth District; that the said *Beverley Butler*, his Heirs or Assigns, being Owners of the Land now possessed by him in *Porland* aforesaid, or one other Person to be yearly nominated and appointed by him or them, in his or their Stead, and certified in manner aforesaid, shall always be and continue a Commissioner for the said fifth District or Division for the Time being; and that the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*, his Heirs or Assigns, or his or their lawful Attorney, shall be and continue another Commissioner for the said fifth District or Division, so long as he or they shall be seized or possessed of five hundred Acres of Land, in his or their own Right, charged with the said Taxes within the same; and that so many other Persons to be Commissioners shall be annually named and appointed by the said *Thomas Orby Hunter*, his Heirs or Assigns, and certified in manner aforesaid to the said Commissioners at their yearly General Meeting aforesaid, as shall make one Commissioner for every five hundred Acres of Land charged with the said Taxes within the said fifth District or Division, over and above the Lands the said *Beverley Butler* is now possessed of; which said several Commissioners so as aforesaid nominated and appointed, and directed to be yearly nominated and appointed, elected and chosen, shall, from Time to Time, be and continue Commissioners for putting this Act in Execution, until the last *Monday* in *June* in the next succeeding Year, and from thenceforth until other Commissioners shall be nominated or appointed, elected or chosen, in their respective Places and Steads.

Qualification
of Persons in-
titled to vote
in the Election
of one or more
Commission-
ers.

Provided always, and it is hereby enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That every Person that shall, for the Time being, be seized or possessed of twenty Acres of Land more than will intitle him to name and appoint one or more Commissioners within any of the said Districts, as aforesaid, and paying Taxes for the same in his own Right, shall also be intitled to vote in the Election of the other Commissioners for the District wherein he shall be so seized or possessed.

New Com-
missioners to
be elected in
the Room of
such as shall
die or be dis-
qualified.

Provided also, and it is hereby enacted and declared, That if any Person or Persons hereby nominated and appointed, or hereafter, by Virtue of or under the Powers and Authorities of this Act, to be nominated or appointed, elected or chosen, to be a Commissioner or Commissioners of the said several Districts respectively, or any of them, shall die or become disqualified, it shall and may be lawful to and for the several Persons herein before-mentioned respectively to elect or choose, nominate or appoint, and certify in manner aforesaid, some other Person or Persons, properly qualified to be a Commissioner or Commissioners, in the Place or Stead of the Commissioner or Commissioners so dying or becoming disqualified from Time to Time, as often as Occasion shall require; and the Commissioner or Commissioners so elected or chosen, nominated or appointed, shall, from Time to Time, have the same Powers and Authorities as the Commissioners hereby nominated and appointed, and directed to be yearly nomi-
nated

nated or appointed, and elected or chosen, in manner aforesaid.

Provided also, and it is hereby further **Commissioners** enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, and every of them, before he or they take upon himself or themselves the Execution of any of the Powers or Authorities hereby given them (other than the administering the Oath or solemn Affirmation following to one another) shall take the following Oath, or being of the People called *Quakers*, the following solemn Affirmation, *videlicet*;

I A. B. do swear (or being of the People called Quakers, do solemnly and truly declare and affirm) That I will, without Favour or Affection, Hatred or Malice, truly and impartially, according to the best of my Skill and Knowledge, execute and perform all and every the Powers and Authorities established by an Act made in the twenty-seventh Year of the Reign of his Majesty King George the Second, intituled, An Act for discharging the Corporation of the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, commonly called Bedford Level, from a Debt due to the Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln; and for enabling the Proprietors of Lands in the North Level, Part of the said Great Level, to raise Money to discharge the Proportion of the said North Level in the Debts of the said Corporation; and for ascertaining and appro-

appropriating the Taxes to be laid on the said *North Level*; and for the more effectual draining and preserving the said *North Level*, and divers Lands adjoining thereto, in the Manor of *Crowland*.

which said Oath or Affirmation any one of the said Commissioners is hereby empowered to administer.

Persons holding any Place of Profit under this Act disqualified from voting.

Provided also, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That no Person or Persons, who shall at any Time hereafter be possessed of any Place of Profit under this Act, shall sit or vote, or have any Power or Authority as Commissioners for any of the said Districts, during the Time he or they shall be possessed of any such Place of Profit, as aforesaid.

Proceedings and Orders of Commissioners to be entered and signed.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That all Orders and Proceedings of the said Commissioners, at their General Meetings aforesaid, shall be entered in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose, and such Orders so entered shall be signed by five or more of the Commissioners assembled at such Meetings, and by the Clerk or Clerks to the said Commissioners; and such Orders so signed, shall be deemed and taken to be original Orders, as fully and effectually as if the same were under the Hands and Seals of the major Part of the Commissioners then assembled; which said Book or Books, and also the
Book

Book hereby directed to be kept for registering the Securities, Assignments and Transfers aforesaid, shall and may be produced and read in Evidence in all Cases of Suits or Actions, touching any Thing done in Pursuance and by the Authority of this Act.

Provided always, and it is hereby further enacted and declared by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Action, Suit or Information shall be commenced or prosecuted against any Person or Persons for any Thing done or to be done in Pursuance of this Act, or in Execution of any of the Powers and Authorities hereby given, every such Action, Suit or Information shall be commenced or prosecuted within twelve Months next after the Fact committed, and not afterwards; and shall be laid or brought in the said Counties of *Northampton, Lincoln and Cambridge*, or the Isle of *Ely*, or one of them, and not elsewhere; and the Defendant or Defendants in such Action or Suit shall and may plead the General Issue, Not guilty; and if in Replevin, may justify and avow by Virtue of this Act, as Persons acting under and by the Authority of Commissioners of Sewers are enabled to do, and give this Act, and the Special Matter in Evidence, without specially pleading the same (other than as aforesaid) at any Trial to be had thereupon; and that the same was done in Pursuance, and by the Authority of this Act; and if the same shall appear to have been so done, or if any such Action or Suit shall be brought after the Time before limited

Limitation of Actions.

General Issue

mitted for bringing the same, or shall be brought in any other County, then the Jury shall find for the Defendant or Defendants, Avowant or Avowants; or if the Plaintiff or Plaintiffs shall become nonsuit or forbear Prosecution, or discontinue his or their Suit or Suits; or if any Judgment shall be given against him, her or them, upon Demurrer, or otherwise, then in any of the said Cases, the Defendant or Defendants, and Avowant or Avowants, shall recover double Costs; for which he, she or they shall have like Remedy as where Costs by Law are awarded.

Double Costs.

Right of
Lords of Ma-
nors reserved
to them;

~~Provided~~ always, and be it hereby enacted, That all such Right or Rights as any Lord or Lords of any Manor or Manors, Liberties, Hundred or Half-hundred, have theretofore had within his or their respective Manor or Manors, Liberties, Hundred or Half-hundred, within or without the said several Districts or Divisions, or any of them, to Waifs, Estrays, Felons Goods, Privileges of Arrests, Escheats and all other Royalties, not prejudicial to the Draining, be hereby saved to them, their Heirs, Successors and Assigns, severally and respectively; any Thing in this Act to the contrary thereof notwithstanding.

and of the
Conservators
and others.

~~Saving~~ also, and always reserving unto the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, and their Successors, and to all and every other Person and Persons, his, her and their Heirs, Executors and Administrators,

ministrators, all such lawful Rights, Powers, Jurisdictions and Authorities now vested in and enjoyed by them, as are not hereby taken away, altered or repealed.

And be it further enacted, That this Act ~~Publick Act~~ shall be deemed, taken and allowed to be a Publick Act; and all Judges, Justices, and other Persons, are hereby required to take Notice thereof as such, without specially pleading the same.

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or improving and preserving the Navigation from *Salters Load Sluice*, in the County of *Norfolk*, to *Stand-ground Sluice*, in the County of *Huntingdon*, and from *Flood's Ferry*, in the Isle of *Ely*, in the County of *Cambridge*, to *Ramsley High Load*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*; and also the Navigation from *Old Bedford Sluice*, in the said County of *Norfolk*, to the River *Nene*, in the Parish of *Ramsley*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*.

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A N Act for improving and preserving the Navigation from *Salter's Load Sluice*, in the County of *Norfolk*, to *Standground Sluice*, in the County of *Huntingdon*, and from *Flood's Ferry*, in the Isle of *Ely*, in the County of *Cambridge*, to *Ramsay High Load*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*; and also the Navigation from *Old Bedford Sluice*, in the said County of *Norfolk*, to the River *Nene*, in the Parish of *Ramsay*, in the said County of *Huntingdon*.

W H E R E A S the Navigation Preamble;
from the Port of *King's Lynn* to
Standground Sluice, near the City
of *Peterborough*, was antiently
carried on from *Salterns Load*, otherwise
Salterns Load Sluice, in the County of *Norfolk*, through *Well Creek*, and the River *Nene*,

to *Flood's Ferry*, in the County of *Cambridge*; and from thence through *Ramsay Meer*, *Ugg Meer* and *Whittlesea Meer*, in the County of *Huntingdon*; but the Navigation through the said Meers being, at all Times, extremely tedious, difficult and dangerous, and very frequently altogether impracticable, the Navigation from the said Port of *King's Lynn* to *Standground Sluice* aforesaid has, for many Years, been carried on from *Flood's Ferry* aforesaid through a certain Drain called *Whittlesea Dike*, being the safest and nearest Passage :

And whereas the Navigation from the Parish of *Ramsay*, and the adjacent Places, to the said Port of *King's Lynn*, will be most conveniently carried on by *Flood's Ferry* through the River *Nene*, *Well Creek* and *Salter's Load* aforesaid :

And whereas the Navigation from the Towns of *Chatteris*, *Maney* and *Welney*, to the said Port of *King's Lynn*, has, for many Years, been chiefly carried on through a certain Drain, called the *Forty-foot Drain*, and the *Old Bedford River* :

And whereas the Trade carried on upon the said Rivers, and through the said Creek and Drains, is greatly increased; and it is become necessary to clean, deepen, widen and scour the said Rivers, Creek and Drains; which cannot be effected without a considerable Expence :

And whereas the preserving and improving of the said Navigations will be a great and general Advantage to the said Port of *King's Lynn* and
the

the City of *Peterborough*, and to all the Towns and Villages situate near the said Rivers, and to the whole adjacent Country :

May it therefore please your MAJESTY,

That it may be enacted ; And be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That the Governor, ^{Commissioners} Bailiffs and Conservators of the Corporation appointed of the Great Level of the Fens, called *Bedford Level*, for the Time being ; the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Common Council of the Corporation of *King's Lynn*, for the Time being, together with ten Inhabitants of the City of *Peterborough* ; six Inhabitants of the Town of *Whittlesea*, being Owners of Lands in the Middle Level, within the said Great Level of the Fens ; six Inhabitants of the Parish of *Doddington*, with its Members ; that is to say, one Inhabitant of the Town of *Doddington*, one Inhabitant of the Town of *Benwick*, one Inhabitant of the Town of *Wimblington*, and three Inhabitants of the Town of *March*, being respectively Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level ; four Inhabitants of the Parish of *Ramsay*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level ; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Chatteris*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level ; two Inhabitants of the Town of *Maney*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level ; two Inhabitants of the Town of

Welney, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level; four Inhabitants of the Parish of *Upwell*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Outwell*, being Owners of Lands in the said Middle Level; four Inhabitants of the Parish of *Downham*, in the County of *Norfolk*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Thrapston*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Islip*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Oundle*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Yaxley*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Fletton*; two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Elton*; and two Inhabitants of the Parish of *Thornhaugh* with *Wandsford*; to be respectively chosen, as herein after is directed; shall be Commissioners for preserving and improving the Navigation from *Salthorn Load*, otherwise *Salters Load*, through *Well Creek* to the Town of *Outwell*, and from thence through the River *Nene* by the Towns of *Upwell* and *March*, directly to *Flood's Ferry* aforesaid, and from thence to a Place called *Ramsay High Load*; and also for improving and preserving the Navigation from *Flood's Ferry* through *Whittlesea Dike* to *Standground Sluice* aforesaid; and also the Navigation from *Old Bedford Sluice*, through the *Old Bedford River* and the *Forty-foot Drain*, to the River *Nene*, in the said Parish of *Ramsay*; and for putting in Execution all other the Powers and Authorities by this Act granted.

Commis-
sioners for Pe-
terborough
and the several
Towns, to be
chosen annu-
ally by the In-
habitants;

AND be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That such of the Inhabitants of the City of *Peterborough*, and of the said several Towns and Parishes of *Whittlesea*, *Doddington*, with its Members, *Ramsay*, *Chate-*

ris, Mary, Welney, Upwell, Outwell, Downbam, Thrapston, Ilip, Oundle, Yaxley, Fletton, Elton and Thornhaugh with Wandsford, respectively, as have Right to assemble in the Vestries of their respective Towns, Parishes or Chapelries, shall meet in their respective Vestries upon *Monday* in *Easter Week*, in the Year one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four; and shall also meet in like manner upon *Monday* in *Easter Week* in every succeeding Year; and choose such of the Inhabitants of the said City, Towns and Parishes, respectively, as the major Part of the Inhabitants then present shall think proper (not exceeding the respective Numbers herein before limited) to be Commissioners for the said City, Towns and Parishes, respectively, together with the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators of the said Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, and with the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen and Common Council of the Borough of *King's Lynn*, for putting this Act in Execution.

And be it further enacted, That the Churchwardens of the Parish of *Saint John the Baptist*, in the City of *Peterborough*, and also the Churchwarden or Churchwardens, Chapelwarden or Chapelwardens, of each of the said other respective Places, shall transmit a Certificate, under their or his Hands or Hand, containing the Names and Descriptions of the several Persons, who shall be chosen Commissioners for the said City, and for the said respective Places, to the other Commissioners by this Act appointed, at the next Meeting to be held after the Commissioners for the said City, and for the said respective Places, shall be

and to be certified by the Churchwardens.

yearly Value of twenty Pounds; or shall be possessed of a personal Estate alone, or a real and personal Estate together, of the Value of five hundred Pounds; or shall be Heir apparent to a Person in Possession of an Estate of the clear yearly Value of one hundred Pounds: And if any Person, not qualified as aforesaid, shall presume to act as a Commissioner in the Execution of this Act, he shall, for every such Offence, forfeit the Sum of fifty Pounds; to be recovered, with full Costs of Suit, by any Person who will inform or sue for the same, in any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster*, by Action of Debt, or upon the Case, Bill, Suit or Information; wherein no Essoign, Protection, Privilege or Wager of Law, nor more than one Imparlance, shall be allowed; and in which Action or Suit it shall be only necessary for the Plaintiff, or Informer, to prove, that the Defendant acted as a Commissioner in the Execution of this Act; and a Verdict shall be found against the Defendant, unless he shall prove, in his Defence, that he was, at the Time of his so acting, qualified according to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the first Meeting of the said Commissioners shall be held on the twelfth Day of *June* one thousand seven hundred and fifty-four, at the Town of *March* in the Isle of *Ely*, in the County of *Cambridge*; and that the second Meeting of the said Commissioners shall be held at the Town of *Downham*, in the County of *Norfolk*; and that the third Meeting of the said Commissioners shall be held at the City of *Peterborough*, in the County of *Nor-*

Commissioners
to meet in ro-
tation at
March, Down-
ham, and Pe-
terborough.

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efore the twenty-ninth certain Times
twenty-ninth Day of Sep- of the Year.

or within the Space of
said twenty-ninth Day of

ninth Day of September, or
f Lynn Mart; or within the

ays before or after the said
Week in the Month of April

ing of the Governor, Bailiffs
prs of the said Corporation of

el of the Fens is held at Ely; or
eek, wherein another Meeting

overnor, Bailiffs and Conservators
ndon.

And

Northampton : And that the said Commissioners may meet, from Time to Time, by Adjournment, or otherwise, at each of the said Places, in the Order and Course herein after prescribed, as often as they shall think proper; not less than nine of the said Commissioners (whereof four at the least to be Commissioners for the said City, or for some or one of the several Places aforesaid, impowered by this Act to choose Commissioners) being present at every such Meeting.

A General Meeting to be held annually at March.

~~Provided~~ always, That a General Meeting of the said Commissioners shall be annually held at the said Town of *March*, upon the third *Thursday* in *August*; and that all Meetings of the said Commissioners, in the Intervals between the said General Meetings, shall be held, in Rotation, at the said Towns of *March* and *Downham*, and the said City of *Peterborough*, except where a Meeting shall be appointed to be held by Notice only, and not by Adjournment; in which Case, such Meeting shall be held at the Place next in Rotation to the Place where the next Meeting is appointed to be held by Adjournment.

Commissioners to adjourn *de die in diem*;

~~Provided~~ also, and be it enacted, That the said Commissioners shall, at every Meeting, have full Power and Authority to adjourn *de die in diem*, and meet again at the same Place; until the Business to be transacted at such Meeting shall be compleated: And that the said Commissioners, at all and several their Meetings to put this Act, or any Part thereof, into Execution, shall, out of their own private

and defray their own Expences.

Mo-

Monies, pay and defray all their own Charges and Expences.

And be it further enacted, That Notice, in Notice to be
Writing, of every Meeting of the said Com- given of Meet-
missioners (except of the Meetings to be held ings.
by Adjournment *de die in diem*, as aforesaid) shall be signed by nine or more of the said Commissioners, and affixed upon the Market-crofs, or in some other Publick Place, in the Cities of *Peterborough* and *Ely*, and in the Towns of *Lynn*, *Downham*, *Chatteris*, *March*, *Ramsey* and *Upwell*, aforesaid; and shall be published in the *Northampton*, *Stamford*, *Cambridge* and *Ipwich* Journals, and in one of the *Evening Posts* in *London* (so long as such Newspapers shall continue to be published) fourteen Days at least before every such Meeting.

Provided always, That no Meeting shall Meetings not
be held at any of the said three Places within to be held at
the Space of six Days before the twenty-ninth certain Times
Day of *August* and the twenty-ninth Day of *Sep-* of the Year.
tember in any Year; or within the Space of
three Days after the said twenty-ninth Day of
August and twenty-ninth Day of *September*, or
during the Time of *Lynn* Mart; or within the
Space of three Days before or after the said
Mart; or in the Week in the Month of *April*
wherein a Meeting of the Governor, Bailiffs
and Conservators of the said Corporation of
the Great Level of the Fens is held at *Ely*; or
in *Whitsun* Week, wherein another Meeting
of the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators
is held at *London*.

And

and, that at each of the
ground sluice, Saltbarn,
sluice, and Old Bedford
paid to the Collector or
pointed as herein after is
pective Goods following
every Chalders of Coals
every Hundred of Batte
hundred of other Deals
Timber, accounting for
Calliper Measure; for e
Wool, accounting ten T
every Weight of Salt;
Wheat, Rape-seed, Lin-
ley, Rye, Peas or Beans,
ters to the Load; for eve
Barley Big; for every tw
for every Load of Reed
or Hemp, reckoning two
to the Load; for every
every thousand of Tiles;
dred of Bricks; for ev
Stone; and for every Cl

and shall be paid by every Person who shall carry or convey any Goods through the said Sluices, up or down the said Rivers, Creek or Drains; and the Monies to be received are hereby vested in the said Commissioners, and shall be applied and disposed of for the several Uses and Purposes of this Act, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever: And in case of Neglect or Denial of Payment of the said Toll or Duty, on Demand, the said Collector or Collectors are hereby authorized and required to seize and detain any of the said Goods or Commodities, or the Vessels carrying the same; and in case the said Tolls or Duties shall not be paid within three Days after such Seizure, it shall be lawful for the said Collector or Collectors to sell the Goods or Commodities, or the Vessels carrying the same, so seized and detained as aforesaid; rendering the Overplus (if any) to the Owners, after the said Tolls or Duties, together with the reasonable Charges of seizing, detaining and selling the said Goods or Commodities, or Vessels carrying the same, shall be satisfied and paid.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That ^{Pleasure-boats} this Act shall not extend to restrain any Person from keeping a Pleasure-boat, for the Purpose of rowing or sailing upon the said Rivers, Creek or Drains, as he or she shall think fit; nor shall any Toll or Duty be demanded upon account of such Pleasure-boat, so as no Goods or Merchandize be carried therein.

Provided also, and be further enacted, ^{and Manure,} That Oil-cakes, Malt-dust, Pigeons-dung, and ^{exempted} all other Manure and Compost, of any Na- ^{from Toll.} ture

ture or Kind whatsoever, shall have free Passage upon the said Rivers, and through all and each of the said Sluices, without being subject to any Toll or Duty; any Thing in this Act contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

Except Linseed Oil-cakes.

Provided nevertheless, That such Oil-cakes, as are made of Linseed, shall not be deemed Manure within the Meaning of this Act.

Commissioners to appoint Collectors, and other Officers.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall, at their first Meeting, to be held at the Town of *March* aforesaid, have full Power and Authority, by Writing under their Hands and Seals, to nominate and appoint such Person or Persons, as they shall think fit, to be Collector or Collectors of the Tolls and Duties hereby granted; and also such Person, as they shall think fit, to be Treasurer or Receiver of the several Sums of Money arising by such Tolls and Duties, and of all other Monies to be raised, levied and paid by or under the Authority of this Act (such Collector or Collectors giving Bond, with two sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, for the due Payment, to the Treasurer, of all Money to be collected by him or them; and such Treasurer or Receiver also giving Bond, with two sufficient Sureties, to the Satisfaction of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, in the Penalty of two thousand Pounds, for the due Application of, and accounting

Collectors, and Treasurer, to give Security.

for, the Monies by him to be received); and shall also administer an Oath to such Collector or Collectors, for the true and faithful executing of his or their Office in or about the Premises: And the said Collector or Collectors shall, upon the first *Monday* in every Month, or oftener, if required by the said Commissioners or any nine or more of them, by Writing under their Hands and Seals, pay, or cause to be paid, into the Hands of the said Treasurer or Receiver, all and every the Sum and Sums of Money, which he or they, the said Collector or Collectors, shall have collected or received, by Virtue of this Act: And the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall also, at their first Meeting; as aforesaid, have full Power and Authority, by Writing under their Hands and Seals, to nominate and appoint a Clerk, and Surveyor or Surveyors, for doing all other Matters and Things, which may be necessary to be performed in Execution of this Act: And such Collector or Collectors, Treasurer or Receiver, Clerk, and Surveyor or Surveyors, to be appointed as aforesaid, shall be allowed, out of the Monies to be raised by Virtue of this Act, for their Care and Pains in executing their respective Offices, so much as the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall think reasonable; and shall be, from Time to Time, removeable, at the Will and Pleasure of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid: And all Vacancies which shall happen by Death, Resignation or Removal of any of the said Officers,

unless removed by the said
any nine or more of them
Meeting, continue in his
Office or Offices until
Meeting of the said Con
third *Thursday* in *August* ;
Commissioners then after
Part of them, shall have
authority either to confirm
Person or Persons, so ap
spective Offices, or to re
them, as they shall think
others in their Stead: At
Death of any Collector or
Treasurer or Receiver sha
and Authority to appoint
sons, as he shall think pr
receive the Tolls and Du
till the next Meeting of
ners, such Person or Perso
rity as aforesaid.

Collectors not **provided** always, That
to be Keepers **shall** be appointed Colle

Provided also, and it is hereby enacted, ^{Sluice-keepers} That the Keepers of the said Sluices, called ^{to be appointed} *Standground Sluice, Salibirn, otherwise Salters* ^{and paid by} *Load Sluice, and Old Bedford Sluice,* shall, ^{the Corporation} from Time to Time, be appointed and paid ^{of Bedford} *Level.* by the Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, called *Bedford Level*, and be under their Direction.

And, to the Intent that the Quantity and Quality of such Goods and Commodities, as shall, at any Time, be carried or conveyed up or down the said Rivers, Creek and Drains, may be discovered and known, and that the Tolls by this Act granted may be justly and duly paid, Be it enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That every Waterman or other Person, who shall at any Time carry or convey ^{Account of} up or down the said Rivers, Creek or Drains, ^{Goods carried} any Goods, Wares and Merchandizes whatsoever, shall, upon Demand, give to the said ^{upon the Ri-} Collector or Collectors a just and true Account, ^{ver to be gi-} according to the best of his Knowledge and ^{ven to Collec-} Belief, of the Quantity and Quality of all such Goods, Wares and Merchandizes, and of the Name or Names of the respective Owner or Owners thereof; which Account being put into Writing by the said Collector or Collectors, the said Waterman, or other Person, shall subscribe his Name or Mark to the same; and if he shall refuse so to do, or shall deliver ^{Penalty on Re-} in a false or untrue Account, he shall, for every ^{fusal.} such Refusal or untrue Account so by him delivered in, forfeit the Sum of forty Shillings, over and above the Tolls or Duties payable for such Goods, Wares or Merchandizes, by

I

Sums of Money; and the Duties so conveyed and assigned, as aforesaid, shall be and are hereby made a Security for the Repayment of the Money so advanced or lent, with legal or less Interest for the same, as shall be agreed upon between the said Commissioners, assembled as aforesaid, or the major Part of them, and the Person or Persons lending or advancing such Money; which said Money, so to be borrowed, shall be applied and disposed of as the said Tolls or Duties, by this Act granted, are directed to be applied and disposed of, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That Copies of all and every the Assignment or Assignments, so to be made by the Commissioners as aforesaid, shall be registered or entered at length in a Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose by the said Clerk, or the said Treasurer or Receiver; which said Book or Books shall and may be seen and perused, at all seasonable Times, by any Person or Persons whomsoever, without Fee or Reward.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Person or Persons, to whom any Assignment or Assignments of the said Tolls or Duties shall be made as aforesaid, or who shall be intitled to the Money thereby secured, shall and may, from Time to Time, by proper Words of Assignment, to be indorsed on the Back of his, her or their Security, or by any other Writing or Writings under his, her or their Hand and

Assignments to
be registered
with the Clerk
or Treasurer.

Securities
transferrable
by Indorse-
ment.

Seal, or Hands and Seals, to be duly executed in the Presence of two or more credible Witnesses, assign or transfer his, her or their Right, Title, Interest or Benefit to the Principal and Interest-money thereby secured, or any Part thereof, to any Person or Persons whomsoever; which said Transfer or Assignment shall, within three Months after the Date thereof, be produced and notified to the said Clerk, or the said Treasurer or Receiver; who shall cause an Entry or Memorial of such Assignment or Transfer, containing the Date, Parties and Sum of Money therein mentioned to be transferred, to be made in the said Book, to be kept for the entering of the said original Assignments; for which the said Clerk, Treasurer or Receiver shall be paid the Sum of two Shillings and six Pence, and no more: And after such Entry made, such Assignment shall intitle such Assignee, his, her and their Executors, Administrators and Assigns, to the Benefit thereof, and Payment thereon; and such Assignee may, in like Manner, assign again, and so *toties quoties*: and it shall not be in the Power of such Person or Persons, who shall have made such Assignment, to make void, release or discharge the same, or any Monies thereby due, or any Part thereof.

Application of the Money to be raised. **And** be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That if the Sum agreed to be paid by the said Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, towards defraying the Expenses of procuring this Act, shall not be sufficient for that Purpose, the Residue of the said

said Expences shall, in the first Place, be satisfied and paid out of the Money to be raised or collected in Pursuance of this Act; and that after such Expences shall be satisfied and paid as aforesaid, all the Money to be raised or collected, as aforesaid, shall be applied and disposed of in the Payment of such Sums as shall become due and payable by Virtue of this Act; and in scouring, cleansing, widening and deepening the said Creek, called *Well Creek*, from *Saltbarn*, otherwise *Salters Load* aforesaid, to the Town of *Outwell*; and also the River *Nene*, through the said Towns of *Outwell*, *Upwell* and *March*, directly to *Flood's Ferry*, and from thence to *Ramsay High Load* aforesaid; and in preserving and improving in like manner, the Navigation from *Flood's Ferry* through *Whittlesea Dike* to *Standground Sluice* aforesaid; and also in scouring and deepening the *Old Bedford River*, from the *Old Bedford Sluice* to *Welch's Dam*, and the *Forty-foot Drain*, from *Welch's Dam* to the River *Nene*, in the Parish of *Ramsay* aforesaid; and in making, maintaining and securing a free Haling-way, for the better carrying on of the said Navigations, and in repairing the Damages which shall be done to the Banks by haling thereon; and in such other Works, not being prejudicial to the draining of the Country, as the Commissioners assembled, as aforesaid, shall, from Time to Time, order and direct.

Provided always, That a distinct and se-Distinct Account shall be kept of the Tolls to be collected at *Salters Load* and *Standground Sluices*, ^{accounts to be kept.}

and of the Tolls to be collected at the *Old Bedford Sluice*; and that the Tolls or Duties to be collected at *Saliers Load Sluice*, and *Standground Sluice*, shall be applied to and laid out in the improving of the Navigation betwixt the said two Sluices, and from *Flood's Ferry*, up the River *Nene*, to *Ramsay High Load* aforesaid, only, and not in the Improvement of the other Navigation, through the *Old Bedford Sluice*; and that the Tolls or Duties, to be collected at the *Old Bedford Sluice*, shall be applied towards scouring and deepening the *Old Bedford River*, and the *Forty-foot Drain*, to the River *Nene*, as aforesaid, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

Twenty-five Commissioners to be present at the borrowing of Money, or ordering of any new Works to be undertaken.

Nine to be a Quorum for other Matters.

Provided also, and be it further enacted, That no Money shall be borrowed, nor any new Works ordered to be undertaken, at any Meeting of the said Commissioners, unless previous publick Notice shall have been given thereof, in Manner before directed, fourteen Days at least before such Meeting; nor unless twenty-five of the said Commissioners (whereof eight at least shall be Commissioners for the City or Places aforesaid) shall be present at such Meeting; but that any nine or more of the said Commissioners (four Commissioners for the City or Places aforesaid at least being present) assembled as aforesaid, shall have full Power and Authority to put in Execution all other Matters and Things by this Act directed to be performed by the said Commissioners.

And

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforeſaid, That the ſaid Commissioners, or any twenty-five or more of them, aſſembled as aforeſaid, and not otherwiſe, ſhall have full Power and Authority to employ, or contract with, any Perſon or Perſons, for the Performance of any Works they ſhall think neceſſary to be done, in Purſuance of this Act, for preſerving and improving the ſaid Navigations, or any Part thereof; ſuch Contracts to be for ſuch Time or Times, and under ſuch Conditions, as the ſaid Commissioners, or the major Part of them, aſſembled as aforeſaid, ſhall think proper: And the Perſon or Perſons employed, or contracted with, as aforeſaid, his or their Agents, Servants and Workmen, are hereby authorized and impowered to open, cut, cleanſe, ſcour, depthen, enlarge or ſtraighten the ſaid Rivers, Creek and Drains, or any Part thereof, within the Limits aforeſaid, making the ſame, in all Places where it is poſſible to be done, thirty Feet wide at the Bottom, forty Feet wide at the Top, and three Feet deeper at the leaſt than any of the adjacent Fen-dikes; and to remove and take away all Trees, Roots of Trees, Dirt, Gravel or Sand-beds, which may hinder or obſtruct the ſaid Navigations; and to do and perform all other Matters and Things, not being prejudicial to the draining of the Country, which the Commissioners ſhall judge neceſſary or convenient, for improving and maintaining the ſaid Navigations.

but not to erect
Sluices in cer-
tain Parts of
the River, &c.

Sluice at Ash-
lines Gravel
not to be raised
higher than at
present.

Pen Sluice to
be made at
Horsey Bridge.

Haling-ways
described.

Provided nevertheless, That the said Com-
missioners shall not erect, or cause to be erect-
ed, any Sluice, Clough, or other Works, in
or upon the *Old Bedford River* (except the Pen
Sluice herein after directed to be made at the
Mouth of the said River) or in or upon the
said *Forty-foot Drain*, or between the Ford
called *Ashlines Gravel* and *Salter's Load Sluice*
aforesaid, or between *Flood's Ferry* and *Ramsay*
Higb Load; and that the Sluice now erected
above *Ashlines Gravel* aforesaid, shall not be
raised higher from the Threshold than five
Feet nine Inches, the present Height of the said
Sluice.

And be it further enacted, by the Authori-
ty aforesaid, That the said Commissioners shall
have full Power and Authority to make a Pen
Sluice, for stopping the Water at *Horsey Bridge*,
in the County of *Huntingdon*, and to prevent
the Waters, taken into the River *Nene* at
Standground Sluice, from flowing out of the said
River, and *Whittlesea Dike* aforesaid; and also
to make, set out and appoint Towing-paths,
and Haling-ways upon the Banks of the said
Creek, called *Well Creek*, and of the said Ri-
ver *Nene*, from *Salibirn Load Sluice* to *March*
Bridge; and from thence along the South-east
Bank of the said River, over *Borrough Moor*
Common, to *Borrough Moor* Severals; and
from thence along the North-west Bank of the
said River, to *Flood's Ferry* aforesaid; and from
thence along the South Bank of *Whittlesea Dike*
to *Angle Bridge*; and from thence along the
North Bank of the said Dike to *Ashlines Gra-*
vel;

vel; and from thence along the South Bank of the said Dike to *Wright's Bridge*; and from thence along the South Bank of the said River *Nene* to *Standground Sluice* aforesaid; and also to set out Haling-ways on the Banks of the River *Nene*, from *Flood's Ferry* to *Ramsay High Load* aforesaid; for towing and drawing, with Men or Horses, Barges, and other Vessels, passing through or upon the said Creek, River and Dike, in such manner as the said Commissioners shall think convenient; first making Satisfaction to the respective Owners or Proprietors of any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, which shall be digged, cut, pulled down, or otherwise made use of, for all or any of the Purposes aforesaid, for any Damage such Owners or Proprietors shall or may sustain thereby.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That **Nine** Commissioners may receive Proposals for any Works to be done; any nine or more of the said Commissioners, assembled as aforesaid, in case no greater Number should be present, shall have full Power and Authority to treat with, or receive Proposals from, any Person or Persons who shall be willing to agree or contract for the Performance of any Works, to be done in Pursuance of this Act; but no Agreement or Contract shall be finally made, or entered into, for that Purpose, unless at some Meeting, at which at least twenty-five of the said Commissioners (eight being Commissioners for the City or Places aforesaid) shall be present; and of which the said Commissioners, to whom such Proposals shall have been delivered, shall give fourteen Days Notice at least, in manner before directed, specifying,

fyng, in such Notice, the Occasion and Design of such Meeting.

Commissioners
impowered to
purchase Lands
for the Use of
the Naviga-
tion.

And, for the better effecting of the Premises, and to the End that the said Navigations may be carried on and preserved in the most effectual Manner, Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, shall have full Power and Authority to agree with the Owners or Proprietors of any Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments which they the said Commissioners shall judge necessary to be cut, digged, pulled down or otherwise made use of, for the Purposes of this Act; and also to adjust and settle what Proportion of the Sum, so agreed to be paid, upon Account of such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, shall be given to any Tenant, or other Person, having a particular Estate, Term or Interest in any of the Premises: And this Act shall be sufficient to indemnify the said Commissioners, and all Persons employed or authorized by them, against such Owners or Proprietors, their Heirs, Administrators or Assigns, as if such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments had been sold by Deed of Feoffment, Bargain and Sale, or other Assurance in the Law, done by Fine and Recovery, or any other Way whatsoever.

Bodies Politick
and Trustees,
impowered to
sell.

And whereas it may happen, That some Persons, or Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, Feoffees in Trust, or others, who are seised of some Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, which may be thought necessary to be

be purchased for the Purposes aforesaid, may be willing to treat and agree for the Sale of such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, but, by reason of Infancy, Coverture, or other Disability, may be incapable of selling or conveying the same; Be it therefore further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for all Bodies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, Corporations Aggregate or Sole, and all Feoffees in Trust, Executors, Administrators, Guardians, or other Trustees for and on Behalf of any Infants, Femes Covert, or Cestuique Trusts, and all other Persons whomsoever, who are or shall be seised or possessed of, or interested in, any such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, to contract and agree with the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, for the Purchase of such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, or of their Interest therein, for the Purposes aforesaid; and to sell and convey the same, as Occasion shall be or require: And all Contracts, Agreements, Sales and Conveyances, which shall be so made, shall be valid, to all Intents and Purposes; any Law, Statute, Usage or other Matter or Thing, whatsoever, to the contrary notwithstanding: And all Feoffees in Trust, Executors, Administrators, Guardians and Trustees, Corporations Collegiate, Aggregate or Sole, and all other Persons, shall be, and they are hereby, indemnified for what they do by Viriue and in Pursuance of this Act.

And

In case of Re-
fusal to treat ^a
or agree,

And be it further enacted by the Authority
aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons, Bo-
dies Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, or other
Person or Persons, seised or possessed of, or inter-
ested in, any Lands, Tenements or Heredita-
ments, which may be necessary to be purchased
for the Purposes aforesaid, shall, for the Space of
ten Days after Notice in Writing to him, her or
them given, or left at the Dwelling-house or
Place of Abode of such Person or Persons, or
of the Head Officer or Officers of such Bodies
Politick, Corporate or Collegiate, or at the
House of the Tenant in Possession of the said
Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, neglect
or refuse to treat, or shall not agree in the Pre-
misses, or, by Reason of Absence, shall be
prevented from treating; then, and in every
or any such Case, the said Commissioners, or
any nine or more of them, assembled as afore-
said, shall be and they are hereby impowered
to issue their Warrant or Warrants to the
Sheriff of the County, or the High Bailiff of
the Isle of *Ely*, for the Time being, respec-
tively, where such Lands, Tenements or He-
reditaments shall lie or be situate; who is
summoned, hereby required to impanel and return before
the said Commissioners, or any nine or more
of them, assembled as aforesaid, at such Time
and Place as in such Warrant or Warrants shall
be appointed, twenty-four substantial and dis-
interested Persons of the said County, or Isle
of *Ely*, respectively, qualified to serve on Ju-
ries, to the End that, out of them, a Jury of
twelve Men may be sworn, to inquire touching
the Matters in question: And in default of a
sufficient

sufficient Number of Jurymen appearing at the Time and Place mentioned in such Warrant or Warrants, the said Sheriff, or High Bailiff, or his Deputy respectively, shall return other honest and indifferent Persons, qualified as aforesaid, who can speedily be procured to attend that Service, to make up the Number of twelve: And the said Jury shall, upon their Oaths, to be administered by the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the Premises (which Oath they are hereby empowered and required to administer) inquire into, assess and award what Recompence and Satisfaction shall be made to the Person or Persons seised or possessed of, or interested in, such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments; or any Part thereof, for his, her or their respective Estates and Interests in the same: And upon such Verdict, the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the Premises, shall give Judgment for the Sum or Sums so awarded and assessed, and shall order the same to be paid to the Person or Persons intitled thereto; and such Verdict and Judgment, and Order thereupon, shall be binding and conclusive, to all Intents and Purposes, against the said Parties, and all others claiming, or to claim, in Possession, Reversion, Remainder, or otherwise, their Heirs and Successors, as well absent as present, Infants, Females Covert, and Persons under any other Disability whatsoever, Bodies Politick, Corporate and Collegiate, and all and every other Person and Persons whomsoever; and, being put

who shall assess the Recompence to the Parties interested.

put

put into Writing, under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall be delivered to the Clerk of the Peace of the County, Liberty or Place where such Verdict shall have been given, to be kept amongst the Records of the Sessions of such County, Liberty or Place; and the same, or a Copy thereof, shall be admitted as Evidence in all Courts whatsoever: And all and every Person and Persons any way interested in such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments, shall, from thenceforth be, to all Intents and Purposes, divested of all Right, Title, Claim, Interest or Property in, to, or out of the same.

Commissioners
impowered to
summon and
examine Wit-
nesses:

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the Premises, shall have full Power and Authority to summon any Witnesses (not being a Peer or Peeres of *Great Britain*) who may be thought proper to be examined, to attend and give Evidence before any Jury, to be impanelled and summoned for the Purposes aforesaid; and also to administer an Oath to, and examine all such Witnesses, or any other Witnesses, who may be produced before such Jury; and shall also order or cause the said Jury to view the Place or Places in question, and use all other lawful Ways and Means, as well for their own as for the better Information of the Jury, in the Premises, as they the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the Premises, shall think fit; and that all Persons concerned shall have their lawful Challenges against any of
the

the said Jurymen, when they come to be sworn:

And the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, acting in the Premises, shall have Power, from Time to Time, to impose any Fine or Fines, not exceeding the Sum of twenty Pounds, upon such Sheriff or High Bailiff, or his Deputy, respectively, making Default in the Premises; and also a Fine, not exceeding five Pounds nor less than forty Shillings, upon any Witness who shall refuse to attend, or be sworn, or to give Evidence; and upon any of the Persons, who, being duly summoned and returned upon any Jury, shall not appear (unless some reasonable Cause of his or their Absence shall be proved, to the Satisfaction of the said Commissioners acting in the Premises) or shall refuse to be sworn on the said Jury, or, being sworn, shall not give his or their Verdict, or shall in any other Manner wilfully neglect his or their Duty in the Premises, contrary to the true Intent and Meaning of this Act: Which Fine or Fines, respectively, shall and may, in Default of Payment thereof, upon Demand, be levied and recovered by Warrant under the Hands and Seals of the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, by Distress and Sale of the Goods and Chattels of the Party or Parties offending, or wilfully making Default in the Premises.

And to impose Fines upon the Sheriff, or any Witness or Jurymen, neglecting their Duty.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That all and every Sum and Sums of Money, or Recompence, to be agreed for, or assessed and awarded as aforesaid, and also

Purchase-money charged upon the Tolls.

the

the Charges attending such Purchase, assessment or Reward, shall be, and is and are hereby charged upon the Tolls by this Act granted, or upon any Money to be borrowed upon the Credit of the said Tolls; and shall be paid thereout accordingly to the Persons respectively intitled thereto, or to their respective Agents; and that, upon Payment or Tender thereof to such Persons, or their Agents, or, in case of their Refusal to accept the same, upon leaving the same in the Hands of the Clerk to the said Commissioners, for the Use of such Persons, the said Commissioners, and all other Persons authorized or employed by them, shall have full Power and Authority to enter upon the said Premises, and to cause such Lands, Tenements or Hereditaments to be cut, digged, pulled down, or otherwise made use of, for the Purposes of the said Navigations; and shall be, and are hereby, indemnified for so doing, against such Persons, their Heirs, Executors, Administrators or Assigns.

Commissioners
to keep Towing-
paths in
repair;

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners shall from Time to Time, and at all Times hereafter, maintain and keep in Repair such Towing-paths or Haling-ways upon the Banks of the said River, Creek and Drain, as shall be made and set out as aforesaid, except such Part thereof as is a publick and common Highway; and also shall, where wanting, set up, and from Time to Time maintain convenient Gates, Passages and Stiles, in or upon the Banks or Lands adjoining to the said River, Creek

and

and Drain, where any Towing-paths or Haling-ways shall be made and set out as aforesaid: And also, if the said Commissioners, or ^{and erect} any Person or Persons authorized by them, as ^{Bridges, where} any new Cuts ^{are made, or} new Cuts or Trenches, by reason whereof the ^{Fords render-} Owners or Occupiers of any Lands, Tenements ^{ed dangerous} or Hereditaments may not have such conveni- ^{or impassable.} ent Access thereto, or Passage from thence, as they before enjoyed; or shall find it necessary to deepen the said River so much, in any Part thereof, where there are Fords or Highways over the same, that such Fords or Highways may be thereby rendered impassable or dangerous; then, and in any of the said Cases, the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall first cause a sufficient Bridge or Bridges to be erected where such new Cuts or Trenches shall be intended to be made, and where such Fords or Highways now are; and shall, from Time to Time, maintain and keep the said Bridges in Repair, for the Convenience and Accommodation of all Persons having Occasion to pass over the same.

Provided always, and it is hereby fur- Owners of
ther enacted, That if any Part of the Banks ^{Lands repair}
of the said Rivers, Creek or Drains, which, ^{the Banks, in}
by this Act, are to be kept in Repair by the ^{case of a}
said Commissioners, shall at any Time be ^{Breach;}
broke down, it shall and may be lawful for the
Owner or Occupier of the Lands, where such
Breach shall happen, to cause the same imme-
diately to be repaired; such Owner or Occu-
prier giving Notice directly to some Officer of

the said Commissioners, that such Breach has happened; or if any Part of the Banks of the said Rivers, Creek or Drains shall be in Danger of a Breach, and Notice of such Danger shall be given, in Writing, to any of the Agents or Servants of the said Commissioners, by the Owners or Occupiers of the Lands lying against such Banks, and the Agents or Servants of the said Commissioners shall neglect to repair the same for the Space of four Days, that then it shall and may be lawful for the Owners or Occupiers of the Lands where Danger of such Breach shall be, to cause the said Banks to be repaired; and, in either of the Cases aforesaid, the Monies expended thereon shall, upon Demand, be reimbursed to such Owner or Occupier out of the Tolls to be collected by Virtue of this Act.

AND be it further enacted, That the Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the said Great Level, shall, at their own Expence, cause to be erected a Pair of Ebb-doors at *Salters Load Sluice*, and also another Pair of Ebb-doors at *Old Bedford Sluice* aforesaid, which respective Doors shall be seven Feet three Inches high; and that the said Doors, and also the said Sluices at *Standground*, *Saltbarn* otherwise *Salters Load*, and *Old Bedford*, shall remain under the Care and Management of, and, from Time to Time, be kept in Repair by, the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty.

It is also enacted, That the said Commissioners, appointed by or in Pursuance of this Act, shall cause a Pair of Gates to be erected at

or in case of
Danger of a
Breach, if the
Commissioners
neglect to re-
pair them.

Corporation of
Bedford Level
to erect Ebb-
doors at *Salters*
Load and *Old*
Bedford;

and to keep
Sluices in
repair.

Commissioners
to erect a Pair
of Gates at
Old Bedford;

at the Mouth of *Old Bedford River* aforesaid, in order to the making of a Pen-sluice there; and shall also pay into the Hands of the Receiver to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, the Sum of fifteen Pounds annually, out of the Tolls to be collected at *Old Bedford Sluice* aforesaid, and also the Sum of thirty Pounds annually, out of the Tolls to be collected at *Standground* and *Salbourn* otherwise *Salterns Load Sluices* aforesaid, by Virtue of this Act, in order to defray the Expences of erecting, altering and keeping in Repair the said Ebb-doors and Sluices: And also that it shall be lawful for the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, with the Money arising from their own Taxes and Revenues, from Time to Time, to cleanse, deepen and scour out any Part or Parts of the *Old Bedford River* and the *Forty-foot Drain*, and to strengthen and repair any Part or Parts of the Banks of the said Rivers, Creek and Drains, without any Lett or Obstruction from the Commissioners appointed by or in Pursuance of this Act.

and pay forty-five Pounds annually to the Corporation; who may cleanse the Rivers, and repair the Banks, at their own Expence.

Provided also, That if at any Time the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty shall not keep the said Ebb-doors or Sluices in Repair, and shall neglect to repair the same for the Space of ten Days after Notice, in Writing, shall have been given by the Surveyor, appointed by the said Commissioners, to the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty, or to any of the Keepers of the said Sluices, that such Repairs are necessary, it shall be lawful for the said Commissioners, or any Person or Persons

Commissioners to repair the Sluices, if the Corporation neglect, upon Notice;

and to be re-authorized by them as aforeſaid, to cauſe the ſaid Ebb-doors or Sluices to be repaired; and imburied. the Money expended in ſuch Repairs ſhall and may be deducted out of the reſpective annual Sums, or either of them, herein before directed to be paid by the ſaid Commiſſioners to the ſaid Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty.

Navigation to be under the ſole Power of the Commiſſioners.

Provided alſo, and it is hereby further enacted, That the Improvement and Preſervation of the ſaid Navigations, and the ſeveral Works already erected or to be erected, and every other Matter and Thing hereby directed to be done for that Purpose (except as herein before is excepted) ſhall be wholly under the Management, Direction and Controul of the ſaid Commiſſioners, and ſhall not be under the Survey or Orders, nor ſubject to the Controul, of the ſaid Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, except only in thoſe Caſes wherein the ſaid Corporation ſhall proceed by Preſentment, and a Jury, as Commiſſioners of Sewers; any Law or Statute to the contrary in any wiſe notwithstanding: And that the Money, to be raiſed by Virtue of this Act, ſhall be applied and diſpoſed of in ſuch Manner as the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhall, from Time to Time, order and appoint, and as herein before is directed concerning the ſame, and in no other Manner whatſoever.

Proviſo concerning the Tongs Drain.

Provided alſo, and be it further enacted, That the Drain called *Marſbland Cut*, or the *Tongs Drain*, ſhall not at any Time be run, unleſs upon a Breach of Bank, or in caſe of imminent Danger thereof, or unleſs the Wa-

ter in the said Rivers be raised more than one Foot above the level Soil of the lowest Lands in the Fens, nor, in any of the said Cases, without an Order in Writing signed by ten of the said Commissioners; whereof five to be Commissioners for the said Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, or for the Borough of *King's Lynn*; and the other five to be Commissioners for the City of *Peterborough*, or the Places aforesaid.

And be it further enacted, by the Authority aforesaid, That where any Tunnel shall be made for taking Water out of the said Rivers, Creek or Drains, into the Fens or low Grounds, the Bottom of such Tunnel shall not at any Time be laid more than two Feet lower than the Surface of the adjacent Lands; and that, where any Tunnel shall be laid, for taking any Water out of the said Rivers, Creek or Drains into the high Lands, the Bottom of such Tunnel shall at all Times be laid upon the same Level with those in the low or Fen Grounds; to the end that such a Quantity of Water may at all Times be kept in the said River, as the Commissioners, or their Agents, shall think proper; and that the same may be constantly maintained of a sufficient Depth for the Use of the said Navigations: And if any Person shall offend in the Premises, by laying the Bottom of any Tunnel lower than herein before is limited and prescribed, and shall be lawfully convicted thereof, before any Justice of the Peace of the County or Place where such Offence shall be committed, he or she so offending shall for every such Offence forfeit,

Tunnels not
to be laid above
a certain
Depth.

Penalty for
offending
therein.

to the Use of the Person giving Information thereof, the Sum of five Pounds, to be recovered by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods and Chattels, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of the Justice, before whom he or she shall be convicted as aforesaid.

Tunnels laid lower than limited, to be taken up.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall be lawful for the Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, to cause any Tunnel, which is or shall be laid lower than herein before is limited, to be taken up, or otherwise stopped, in such manner as they shall think most proper.

Commissioners to make Orders for improving the Navigations, and regulating Watermen, &c.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall have full Power and Authority, at any of their Meetings as aforesaid, from Time to Time, to make such Orders and Decrees for improving and preserving the said Navigations, in Pursuance of this Act, and for regulating the Manner of haling upon the Banks of the said Rivers, Creek and Drains, and for the well governing of the Watermen and Boatmen using the said Navigations, as they the said Commissioners shall think proper and convenient.

Owners of Boats, &c. to make Satisfaction for Damages.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That every Boatmaster, and Owner of any Boat, Lighter or other Vessel, which shall pass up or down the said Rivers, Creek or Drains, shall be and is hereby made answerable, and shall make Satisfaction, for any Damage or Mischief which shall be done by his or her Boat, Lighter or other Vessel, or by any

any of the Crew thereof, to any of the Weirs, Locks, Dams, Sluices, or other Works, erected, or to be erected or maintained, by Authority of this Act; and also for any Damage or Trespafs which shall be done or committed by his or her Boat, Lighter or other Vessel, or by his or her Horses or Servants, to or upon any Banks, Lands or Tenements adjoining to the said Rivers, Creek or Drains; which Satisfaction shall and may be sued for, and recovered, with full Costs of Suit, by Action of Trespafs, or on the Case, in any Court of Record.

And, for preventing Damages, Mischiefs Penalty on and Trespafses, which may be done or committed by rude and disorderly Persons, Persons causing Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, any Annoy- That if any Waterman, or other Person, Navigation, having the Care and Management of any Boat or or offending other Vessel, shall lay such Boat or Vessel so as Order of the to obstruct the Passage of other Boats or Vessels, or hinder the opening or shutting of any Commissioners. of the said Locks or Sluices, and shall not, when required, immediately remove the same; or if any Person shall throw any Dirt, Gravel, Soil, or other Annoyance, into the Waters, within the Limits of the said Navigations; or shall wilfully offend against any Order or Decree made by the said Commissioners, as aforesaid; such Waterman, or other Person, so offending, shall and may, by the Authority of this Act, and without any other Warrant, be apprehended by the Constable of the Parish or Place where such Offender shall be found, and carried before any Justice of the Peace for the same County or Place; who, upon Proof of

the Complaint, by the Oath of one or more credible Witness or Witnesses (which Oath the said Justice is hereby impowered and required to administer) or by the Confession of the Party accused, shall impose such Fine upon the Offender, as the said Justice shall think reasonable, not exceeding five Pounds nor less than twenty Shillings; to be levied by Distress and Sale of such Boat or Vessel, or of any of the Goods and Chattels of the Offender, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of such Justice; and, for want of sufficient Distress, such Offender shall, by like Warrant, be committed to the House of Correction; there to be kept to hard Labour for any Time not exceeding three Months, nor less than one Month, at the Discretion of such Justice.

Persons ag-
grieved by
Order of any
Justice to ap-
peal to Quar-
ter-Sessions:

Provided always, and be it enacted, That if any Person shall think himself aggrieved by the Order or Judgment of any Justice of the Peace, upon Account of any Offence against this Act, such Person shall have Liberty to appeal to the Justices at the next General or Quarter Session to be held for the County or Place, wherein such Order or Judgment shall have been made or given; the Person so appealing giving Security, to the Satisfaction of the said Justice, to prosecute such Appeal with Effect, and to pay the Costs, which shall be ascertained by the said General or Quarter Session, in case such Order or Judgment shall be affirmed: And the Justices in the said General or Quarter Session are hereby authorized and required to hear and determine the said Appeal, and to make such Order therein, as to them

them shall appear just; which Order shall be final and conclusive to all Parties; and shall not ^{Whole Order} be removable by Writ of *Certiorari*, or other- ^{is to be final.} wise, into any of his Majesty's Courts of Record at *Westminster* or elsewhere.

Provided nevertheless, That no Order or ^{Proceedings} Judgment of any Justice of the Peace shall ^{not to be quashed} be quashed or vacated for want of ^{Form} Form ^{Form.} only.

And be it further enacted by the Authority ^{Application of} aforesaid, That the respective Penalties and ^{the For-} Forfeitures by this Act inflicted (the ^{feitures.} Application whereof is not herein particularly directed) shall be paid into the Hands of the Treasurer or Receiver of the Monies, to be raised by Virtue of this Act; and shall be applied and disposed of for the Use of the said Navigations, and to no other Use or Purpose whatsoever.

And for preventing the breaking down or ^{Clause to pre-} damaging any of the Works, which shall be ^{vented the} erected or made in Pursuance of this Act, ^{breakingdown} Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That ^{of the Banks.} if any Person or Persons shall wilfully and maliciously cut, break down, damage or destroy any Banks, or other Works, erected or made for the Purposes aforesaid, such Person or Persons shall be adjudged guilty of Felony; and shall be subject and liable to the like Pains and Penalties, as in case of Felony: And the Courts, by and before whom such Person or Persons shall be tried, shall have full Power and Authority to transport such Felons for the Space of seven Years, in like Manner as other Felons are directed to be transported by the Laws and Statutes of this Realm.

And

Commissioners **And** be it further enacted by the Authority **impowered to** **lessen the Tolls;** **and raise the** **same again, if** **they think fit.** **Thursday** in *August*, shall have full Power and Authority from Time to Time, to lessen or reduce the Tolls by this Act granted, if they the said Commissioners shall think proper; and also to raise and augment the same again, as they the said Commissioners, or any twenty-five or more of them, assembled at their annual Meeting as aforesaid, or the major Part of them so assembled, shall judge necessary; so as no greater Tolls be, at any Time, demanded or taken, than are by this Act granted and made payable.

Treasurer and **Collectors to** **account.** **And** to the End that the said Commissioners may, from Time to Time, be enabled to determine what Tolls or Duties may be necessary to be raised for the Purposes of this Act, and that the respective Sums of Money to be collected, levied and borrowed, by Virtue thereof, may be duly accounted for, Be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Treasurer or Receiver to be appointed as herein before is directed, shall fairly set down and enter in one or more Book or Books to be kept for that Purpose, an Account of all Monies by him received and disbursed, in Pursuance of this Act; specifying, in the said Account, the Times when, and the Persons from and to whom such Monies were received or disbursed, and for what Uses and Purposes; which Book or Books, or a true Copy thereof, signed by the said Treasurer or Receiver, shall be delivered

vered to the said Commissioners, at their annual Meeting aforesaid, upon the third *Thursday* in *August*, and also at such other Meetings as the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall require the same; and the said Treasurer or Receiver shall also verify the said Book or Books, upon Oath, if thereunto required by the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid; who are hereby impowered to administer such Oath, and also to discharge such Treasurer or Receiver of all such Monies as he shall have fairly and truly accounted for, as aforesaid: And the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, shall also, at their annual Meeting as aforesaid, and at such other Meetings as they shall think proper, summon before them, and, if they think fit, examine upon Oath (which Oath the said Commissioners are hereby impowered to administer) the Collector or Collectors, Clerk, Surveyor or Surveyors, and Persons employed in or entrusted with the Receipt or Expenditure of all or any of the Monies to be raised by Virtue of this Act; which Collector or Collectors, Clerk, Surveyor or Surveyors, and Persons employed or entrusted as aforesaid, are hereby required to render to the said Commissioners, or any nine or more of them, assembled as aforesaid, a true, exact and perfect Account, in Writing, of all and every the Sum and Sums of Money so by them respectively received or expended as aforesaid: And in case the said Treasurer or Receiver, Collector or Collectors, Clerk, or any other Officer or Person employed or entrusted as aforesaid, shall be found

shall be drawn, or shall be accounted, or
 the Money due upon the Balance of his
 account, according to the Orders and Directions
 of the said Commissioners, or any one of
 them, as aforesaid as aforesaid, it shall
 be lawful for the said Commissioners, or any
 one of them as aforesaid, as aforesaid, as aforesaid,
 to draw or to receive under their Hand
 and Seal, as aforesaid, by Deputies and Secretaries
 and Clerks of the Office of the said
 Commissioners, or receiving to draw
 the Money due upon the said
 said Account, their Seal or Seals of Office
 as they shall be required to draw
 or to receive the Money due upon the said
 said Account; and, for want of
 the Deputies, it shall be lawful for the
 Commissioners, at any time or times to
 by the Warrant or Warrants under their
 and Seals, to command their Persons to be
 at the common Goal of the County of
 Place where the said Commissioners be
 then assembled, there to remain until
 until be or they shall have made a return
 and Payment as aforesaid.

against him, or Judgment be given against him, upon a Demurrer; then, in any of the said Cases, the Defendant shall recover treble Costs, and have the like Remedy for the same, as any Defendant or Defendants hath or have for Costs of Suit, in any other Cases, by Law. Treble Costs.

Provided always, and be it enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall extend, or be construed to extend, to invalidate, lessen, diminish, alter, or take away, any of the Rights of the Corporation of Bedford Level saved.

Rights, Powers or Authorities which, by an Act made in the fifteenth Year of the Reign of King Charles the second (intituled, *An Act for settling the draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level*) or by any other Act, Statute or otherwise, are vested in the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty; except such Rights, Powers or Authorities as are by this Act altered or taken away; or to invalidate, lessen, diminish, alter or take away any of the the Rights, Powers or Authorities of the said Corporation of the Great Level of the Fens, called *Bedford Level*, as Commissioners of Sewers, acting by Presentment, and Trial by a Jury.

And be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act shall be taken and allowed in all Courts within this Kingdom as a Publick Act; and shall be judicially taken Notice of as such by all Judges, Justices, and other Persons, without specially pleading the same. Publick Act.



Anno Regni
G E O R G I I I I .
R E G I S

Magnæ Britanniae, Franciæ & Hiberniæ,
V I C E S I M O N O N O .

At the Parliament begun and holden
at *Westminster* the thirty-first Day of
May Anno Dom. 1754, in the
twenty-seventh Year of the Reign of
our Sovereign Lord *GEORGE* the
Second, by the Grace of God, of
Great Britain, France and Ireland
King, Defender of the Faith, &c.

And from thence continued, by several Proro-
gations to, the thirteenth Day of *November*
1755, being the third Session of this present
Parliament.

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Anno vicesimo nono

OR GII II. Regis.

Act for establishing a Fund
or Payment of the Bonds of
the Governor, Bailiffs and Com-
monalty of the Company of
Conservators of the Great Le-
vel of the Fens, called *Bedford
Level*; and for exchanging the
present Bonds of the said Cor-
poration for other Bonds, pay-
able out of the Revenues of
the Middle and South Levels,
Part of the said Great Level;
and for enabling the said Cor-
poration to borrow further
Sums, for the Use of the said
Great Level.

M m WHEREAS

Preamble, re-
citing Clauses
in Act 15 Car.
II. for drain-
ing Bedford
Level.

WHEREAS by an Act of Parliament made in the fifteenth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, intituled, *An Act for settling the Draining of the Great Level of the Fens, called Bedford Level*, taking Notice that *Francis* Earl of *Bedford*, according to a Law of Sewers, made at King's *Lyms* in the sixth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the First, had undertaken the Draining of the said Great Level, situate within the Counties of *Northampton, Norfolk, Suffolk, Lincoln, Cambridge* and *Huntingdon*, and the Isle of *Ely*, and bounded as in the said Act is particularly mentioned and described; and that he, the said Earl, was to have for his Recompence ninety-five thousand Acres of the Grounds within the said Level, with convenient Highways and Passages to the same; and that *William* Earl of *Bedford*, Son and Heir of the said Earl *Francis*, with divers of his Adventurers and Participants, had proceeded in the completing and finishing of the said Works; but that the same could not be preserved without constant Care, great Charge and orderly Government; it was therefore, amongst other Things, enacted, That the said *William* Earl of *Bedford*, and the Adventurers and Participants of the said Earl *Francis* and Earl *William*, or either of them, their Heirs and Assigns, in such Manner as in the said Act is contained, should be a Body Politick and Corporate, in Deed and Name, and have Succession for ever, by the Name of *The Governor, Bailiffs and Com-*

Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens; with Power to lay Taxes upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres only (twelve thousand Acres whereof had been designed and intended for his late Majesty King *Charles* the First, and had been set forth and allotted by Bounds in Severalty) for the Support, Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level, and to levy the same with Penalties for Non-payment, and to do all other Things in order to the Support, Maintenance and Preservation of the said Great Level and Works made and to be made, in such manner as in the said Act is mentioned: And whereas by another Act made in the twentieth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, intituled, *An Act for the taxing and assessing of the Lands of the Adventurers within the Great Level of the Fens*, it was enacted, That eighty-three thousand Acres, Parcel of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, should, from Time to Time, be taxed and assessed by a gradual Acre-tax, of different Sorts and Values of Lands; and that the said twelve thousand Acres, Residue of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, should be taxed at a Medium of the whole Tax, to be from Time to Time assessed upon the said ninety-five thousand Acres: And to the End that the said eighty-three thousand Acres might be more equally taxed by a gradual Tax, certain Persons in the same Act named, were appointed Surveyors and Valuers of the said eighty-three thousand Acres; and were, within the Time limited by the Act, to digest the said eighty-three thou-

20 Car. II.

and make the same the
into the Pen Office, in
said Act is prescribed:
ations made by the
by the said Act of
Charles the Second, an
Office of the said Cor
said eighty-three thou
and digested into eleven
grees of Land, and r
rated and assessed upon
and Degrees, as their
the Taxes to be paid
were by the said Valuan
and the said eighty-thre
always since been rated
according to the Degre
set out and allotted, as
said Acres at a Medium
Tax upon the said eight
together with the Prod
Tax upon the said
amounting to the Som
fifty-one Pounds levi

Duke of Bedford and Earl of Lincoln; and for enabling the Proprietors of Lands in the North Level, Part of the said Great Level, to raise Money to discharge the Proportion of the said North Level in the Debts of the said Corporation; and for ascertaining and appropriating the Taxes to be laid on the said North Level; and for the more effectual draining and preserving the said North Level, and divers Lands adjoining thereto, in the Manor of Crowland; taking Notice (amongst other Things) that at a Court of the said Corporation, held the tenth Day of March one thousand six hundred and ninety-seven, the said Corporation declared, that the said Great Level should be distinguished by the several Names of the North Level, Middle Level and South Level; and also taking Notice that the said Corporation, in order to support and preserve the several Works for draining the said Great Level, had been obliged to borrow Money, and contract Debts, amounting in the whole to the Sum of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence; it was, amongst other Things, enacted, That the said Governor, Bailiffs and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the said Great Level of the Fens, and their Successors and all and every the Lands, Taxes, Rents and Revenues of the said Corporation, should be absolutely discharged from the Sum of eighteen thousand nine hundred and thirteen Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence (Part of the said Debt of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three Pounds eleven Shillings

that the Sum of one
Pounds, to be raised
lying within the said
manner by the said Act
raised, be applied in Dis-
tion of the said North-
fidue of the said Deb-
sand one hundred fifty
Shillings and nine Pen-
said last-mentioned Act;
declared, That the Tax-
tue of the said Acts
twentieth Years of King
upon the Taxable Lands
Level, should be always
settled upon so much th
of the said eighty-three
Tax and a Quarter, and
as shall be Part of the s
Acres, in Proportion ther
said Act of the twentieth
Second, and should not be
under any Pretence what
the Money which should

Bailiffs and Commonalty, and their Successors, in and about the several Banks and Works of the said North Level, in the said Act particularly mentioned, and to and for no other Purpose whatsoever; and that the said North Level, and all and singular the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Taxes and Revenues thereof should be freed, exonerated and discharged of and from the Residue of the said Debt of forty-nine thousand one hundred and fifty-three Pounds eleven Shillings and nine Pence, and all Interest, payable for and in Respect thereof; and that the said North Level, or the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Revenues and Taxes thereof, or of any Part thereof, should not be subject or liable to the Payment of any Debt, or Sum or Sums of Money, which should at any Time thereafter be contracted, taken up or borrowed by the said Corporation, for or on Account of the said Middle or South Levels, or either of them; and also that the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, or the Lands, Tenements, Rents, Revenues and Taxes of them, or either of them, should not be subject or liable to the Payment of any Debt, or Sum or Sums of Money whatsoever, which should at any Time thereafter be contracted, taken up or borrowed by the said Corporation, on Account of the said North Level: And whereas the said Sum of one thousand eight hundred Pounds has been raised and applied in Pursuance of the said Act of the twenty-seventh Year of his present Majesty's Reign; and the said Corporation have also, since the making of the said last-mentioned Act,

hundred Pounds raised and
whereby the Debt of
reduced to the Sum of
four hundred and forty
the said Debt of two
hundred and forty Pounds
under the Seal of the
have thereby bound and
pay the several Sums to
respective Bonds; and
Sum of twenty-seven thousand
and forty Pounds is, by
twenty-seventh Year of
become a Charge upon
South Levels only, it is
exchange the Bonds for securities
and to mention in the new
for that Purpose, that the
secured, is due from the said
Levels only: And whereas
amongst the Creditors of
tion, concerning the Security
for their respective Debts,
said Corporation have it in
the before-mentioned Acts of
twentieth of King Charles

the Payment of the Debys, due to the said Creditors, may become deficient: And whereas the said Corporation may have Occasion to borrow further Sums of Money for the Support and Preservation of the said Great Level; and it will be necessary to distinguish in all future Bonds, to be entered into by the said Corporation, whether the Money borrowed upon such Bonds be for or on Account of the said Middle and South Levels, or for or on Account of the said North Level: To the End therefore that a sufficient Fund may be at all Times hereafter raised and secured for Payment of the Bonds of the said Corporation; and that the Bonds given by the said Corporation for the said Sum of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty Pounds, may be exchanged as aforesaid; and that the said Corporation may be enabled to borrow such further Sums, as shall be necessary for the Support and Preservation of the said Great Level; and that distinct Bonds may be given for the Money which shall be so borrowed upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels, and upon Account of the said North Level; be it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That during such Time as any Debt or Sum of Money shall be due and owing from or upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels, all such Parts of the said eighty-three thousand Acres as lie within the said Levels, or either of them, shall yearly and every

A single Tax to be laid upon the Middle and South Levels, during the Continuance of any Debt thereon.

and their be and the same are, but
 were changed and altered by and
 by the said Act, and such Part
 and were changed as he was
 the said of such Levels, with
 in the said Act, and
 the said of the Government of King
 the said and the Variations with
 were made.

Information
 answered
 by the
 said
 are.

Statute **Answer.** That is that
 for the Government, Banks and Cor
 the said Corporation, from Time
 to time the change of the said
 the said Corporation should Answer
 making them, as he would the said
 in such Levels, with any other
 the said Government, Banks and
 the said change necessary, in the
 the said and have done before
 of the said.

New Bonds
 is given
 the
 Bonds for the
 present Cert.

And is a further enacted, That
 the Bonds were given by the said
 the said for securing the Payment of
 Debt of twenty-seven thousand four
 and fifty Pounds, the said Government



venues of the said Middle and South Levels shall be, and they are hereby declared to be, a Security for, and shall be charged and chargeable with, the Payment of the Sums mentioned in such Bonds, and all Interest due, and to become due thereupon.

And to the End that the said Corporation may be at all Times enabled to raise such Sums of Money as shall be necessary for the Support and Preservation of the said Great Level, and for defraying the other necessary expences attending the same; be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any seven or more of them, whereof the said Governor, or Bailiffs, or any of them, to be two, with the Consent of the Duke of *Bedford*, his Heirs or Assigns, Lord or Lords, Lady or Ladies, of the Manor of *Thorney*, and of the Earl of *Lincoln*, his Heirs or Assigns, Owner or Owners of *Highb* and *Low Borough* Fen, from Time to Time, to borrow upon Bonds, under the common Seal of the said Corporation, such Sum or Sums of Money as they, the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any seven or more of them as aforesaid, shall judge necessary for the Use of the said North Level, not exceeding in the whole the Sum of five thousand Pounds; declaring in such Bonds, that the Money secured thereby, is due and owing upon Account of the said North Level; and also any Sum or Sums of Money which they the said Governor, Bailiffs and Conservators, or any seven or more of them as aforesaid, shall judge necessary for the Use of the said Middle and South Levels, or

Corporation
impowered to
borrow for the
Use of the
North Level,
not exceeding
5000l.

and any Sum
for the Middle
and South Le-
vels, so as the
whole Debt do
not exceed
either 32,000l.

Year of his present Majesty's Reign to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding: And that all and singular the Rents, Taxes and Sums of Money to be received, raised or levied by the said Corporation, from, upon, or upon Account of such Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres as lie within the said Middle and South Levels, or either of them, shall be charged and chargeable, in the first Place, with the Payment of the aforesaid Debt of twenty-seven thousand four hundred and forty Pounds, and of such other Sums of Money as shall be borrowed upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels, and of the Interest of such Debt and Sums of Money: And the Receiver of the said Corporation is hereby empowered and required, out of the first Money which shall from Time to Time come to his Hands, arising from the Rents, Taxes and Revenues of the said North Level, to pay the Interest of such Bonds as shall be entered into upon Account of the said North Level, and also the Principal Money due upon such Bonds, upon six Months Notice left for that Purpose at the Office of the said Corporation in *London*, by the Person or Persons possessed of such Bonds; and the said Receiver is also hereby empowered and required, out of the first Money which shall from Time to Time come to his Hands, arising from the Rents, Taxes and Revenues of the said Middle and South Levels, to pay the Interest of such Bonds as shall be entered into upon Account of the said Middle and South Levels, and also the Principal Money

Bonds to be
paid off, upon
six Months
Notice given
at the Fen
Office:

And be it further enacted, That all Bonds to be given by the said Corporation, shall be transferrable or assignable by Indorsement upon the original Bond, without Stamps, to any Person or Persons, whomsoever; and such Transfer or Assignment being produced to the Register of the said Corporation, and by him entered in a Book, to be kept for that Purpose, (which Entry the said Register is hereby required to make upon Request, the Person producing such Transfer or Assignment, paying the Sum of two Shillings and six Pence for every such Entry) shall intitle the Person or Persons to whom such Transfer or Assignment shall be made, his, her or their Executors, Administrators or Assigns, to the Money secured by such Bond, and all Interest due or to grow due thereupon: And such Assignee or Assignees may, in like Manner, by Indorsement without Stamp, assign and transfer such Bond or Bonds so assigned as aforesaid; and so *taies quotas*, as Occasion shall require; every such Assignment being entered in such Book as aforesaid.

To be transferrable without Stamps.

Assignments to be entered by the Register of the Corporation.

And be it further enacted, That all and singular the Rents, Taxes and Sums of Money to be received, raised or levied by the said Corporation, from, upon, or upon Account of such Part of the said ninety-five thousand Acres, as lie within the said North Level, shall be charged and chargeable, in the first Place, with the Payment of such Sums of Money as shall at any Time hereafter be borrowed by the said Corporation upon Account of the said North Level, and the Interest of such Sums; any thing in the said Act of the twenty-seventh Year

Money, raised by the Corporation upon the taxable Lands in the respective Levels, how to be applied.

disposed of for the Use or upon Account of the
said Middle and South Levels, or any of
them.

Publick Act.

And be it further enacted and declared
That this Act shall be deemed and allowed
all Courts within this Kingdom, to be a
Publick Act; and shall be judicially taken
notice of as such, by all Judges, Justices, and
Persons, without specially pleading the fact.

24 G E O. 2. C. 23.

An Act for the regulating the Commencement of the Year; and for correcting the Calendar now in Use.

AND be it further enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that the several Meetings of the Court of Session, and Terms fixed for the Court of Exchequer in *Scotland*, the *April* Meeting of the Governor, Bailiffs, and Commonalty of the Company of Conservators of the Great Level of the Fens, and the holding and keeping of all Markets, Fairs and Marts, whether for the Sale of Goods or Cattle, or for the Hiring of Servants, or for any other Purpose, which are either fix'd to certain nominal Days of the Month, or depending upon the Beginning, or any certain Day of any Month, and all Courts incident or belonging to, or usually holden or kept with any such Fairs or Marts, fix'd to such certain Times as aforesaid, shall not from and after the said second Day of *September*, be continued upon, or according to the nominal Days of the Month, or the Time of the Beginning of any Month, to be computed according to the said new Calendar; but that from and after the said second Day of *September*, The said Courts of Session and Exchequer, the said *April* Meeting, and all such Markets, Fairs and Marts as aforesaid, and all Courts incident or belonging thereto, shall be holden and kept upon, or according to the same natural Days, upon or according to which the same should have been so kept or holden in case

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this

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